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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 310 | WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Would you agree to the marine monument proposal if the CNMI regains local control of its submerged lands?

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36 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

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Low turnout plagues polls

"I think the interest in this election is there and I know the candidates did their share in trying to reach their supporters. But there's also a number of reasons voters could not come— it's either this or that."

—Frances Sablan, chairwoman of the Commonwealth Election Commission

By AGNES E. DONATO and FERDIE DELA TORRE
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Low turnout hung over polling stations throughout Saipan yesterday, the first time local voters got the opportunity to elect a congressional delegate.

See LOW on Page 4

Tanapag voters participate in the historic election for the Northern Marianas delegate. Inset, Dina Ellen Kaliga, a poll worker at the Tanapag polling station, looks for a name on the voters' list.

AGNES E. DONATO

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

By KRISTI EATON, FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTERS

About 20 people were waiting in line at the San Antonio Elementary precinct at 6:45am, 15 minutes before the polls officially opened.

Former Rep. Pete Castro, a member of the 13th Legislature, was one of the community members waiting in line. Castro said he was voting for Gregorio Camacho Sablan because he is the best candidate to improve "not only the physical conditions of the island, but the livelihood of the people on the island."

■■■

Department of Public Safety officer Eric David, stationed

See REPORTERS' on Page 4

CUC emergency extended for 3rd time

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Despite some objections from lawmakers, Gov. Benigno Fitial has extended the state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities. Corp. for 30 more days.

Fitial first declared the state of emergency on Aug. 1.

The order is necessary to keep power flowing on Saipan, the governor said in a statement issued yesterday.

Fitial

"CUC is repairing our electric system as best as it can, but until that job is done, we need temporary power from Aggreko and we need the ability to buy parts and labor quickly to meet our emergencies," he said.

The declaration allows CUC to bypass procurement regulations and air quality standards.

Although he might be criticized by lawmakers, the order is necessary to protect CNMI residents, businesses, guest workers and tourists from experiencing a repeat of last summer's rolling blackouts,

See CUC on Page 4

Local

KABA Modern's six members appeared on MTV's *America's Best Dance Crew*. They are Mike Song, Jia Huang, Cindy Minowa, Tony Tran, Lawrance Kao and Yuri Tag.

KABA Modern to perform live in MHS show

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The stars of California-based youth dance group KABA Modern will be performing live on Saipan as special guests in the search for the CNMI's Best Dance Crew this Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Marianas High School Gym.

The three-pair group will also be judging the dance competition, which will be presented by and for the benefit of the Marianas College Foundation.

KABA Modern's six members appeared on MTV's *America's Best Dance Crew*. They are Mike Song, Jia Huang, Cindy Minowa, Tony Tran, Lawrance Kao and Yuri Tag.

According to Wikipedia, KABA Modern is a spin-off of the University of California, Irvine Filipino cultural club, Kababayan.

Headed by Arnel Calvario, the group began as a dance group that performs the hip-hop dance portion for the club's annual PCN or Pilipino Cultural Night. Kababayan means countryman in Tagalog.

Show producer Ed Arriola Jr. said the KABA Modern will be coming to Saipan to perform and judge the search for the best dance crew in the CNMI, which will feature eight teams from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian.

Arriola said these dance groups are made up of mostly high school and college students "who are hungry to take the championship, and have their video submitted to MTV Networks for Season 3 of the show next February."

He said the winning group will have a chance to fly to Los Angeles and compete in the show.

Tickets are $5 each and are available at PTI Garapan, Mobil Kagman, Power 99 Studios, KWAW 100.3 Studios, Pacific Trading Company and NMC Bookstore.

Arriola said the event will be primarily used as a marketing event to attract more students to NMC, the CNMI's lone higher education institution.

The NMC Foundation extends special thanks to Tan Holdings Foundation, PTI, Mobil, Power 99/Sorensen Media Group, Pepsi, KWAW 100.3, Continental Airlines, Hertz, G4S Security, Elite Printing, Sky Castle Limousines, and the *Saipan Tribune* for sponsoring the dance competition.

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Some family members break ties for candidates

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In order to vote for whom they believe is the best candidate, some people broke from family ties this year.

Sisters Remy Lekka and Mina Ada, members of the Sablan family, said they had to go against other family members and support Juan Lizama.

"It's just that I'm choosing the right leader," Ada said. "I don't need to vote for the same person [as my family]. The time is real bad. I need someone who knows what they're doing."

Lizama's a judge and a lawyer, so he doesn't need to hire someone to lobby for him, she added.

Lekka and Ada were campaigning for Lizama near San Vicente Elementary; both women held signs and yelled at passing cars.

"Viva Lizama," Ada yelled to motorists.

"Every vote counts," she said. "That's why I have to vote."

She said her decision to support Lizama caused some family conflict.

"Family members are right next door," she said, as she pointed to the Gregorio Camacho Sablan supporters at the next tent.

At the Sablan camp, Mike Tenorio, Sablan's campaign chairman, said he is supporting Sablan despite being a Tenorio.

"I know him. I know he can do the job," he said, as he stood next to the Tenorio campaign supporters' tent.

"After all this is done, we're all back together," he said of family members.

KRISTI EATON

Remy Lekka and Mina Ada, members of the Sablan family, decided to forgo campaigning for Gregorio Sablan and instead support Juan Lizama in this year's election.

'The people hold the key'

Candidate Luis Crisostimo made sure to arrive at San Vicente Elementary in time to vote at 8:58am.

Eight is his lucky number, he said.

"I like eight. Eight is infinite," he said, adding that the number is also significant because he met his wife in August, the eight month of the year.

But besides that superstition, Crisostimo said yesterday's election was standard for him.

"As usual, I feel normal," he said. "I'm not in a hurry. I really feel the same as I did the last three elections."

He is currently a senator for the third district.

Crisostimo, who kissed and hugged voters as they arrived and departed the precinct, said he was satisfied with how his campaign went.

"We worked hard," he said. "It's really the people that hold the key."

He said he did not advertise on TV or radio this past month to show the public he did not need to follow the American way of campaigning.

"I was told a lot of times we have to follow the American system of advertising," he added.

A focus for him, he said, was making sure to be careful in how he spent money. For this campaign, he put fresh paint on billboards he used during last year's election.

"We can say we're Americans, but we don't have to follow the American way," he said. *(Kristi Eaton)*

KRISTI EATON

Candidate Luis Crisostimo votes at San Vicente Elementary yesterday.

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CUC

From Page 1

the statement said.

On Friday, the Legislature passed a bill limiting the governor's power to declare disaster emergencies.

Under the bill, the governor will not be able to use his constitutional powers to declare an emergency to deal with "financial crisis or hardship." Proponents of the bill say such declarations should only be allowed in extreme cases such as an invasion, civil disturbance, natural disaster, or calamity. They argue that existing laws provide enough means for the governor to deal with a financial crisis without the governor having to use emergency powers.

Rep. Joseph James Camacho introduced the bill in May 2008 in the wake of the governor's emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which was facing technical default on its airport revenue bonds due to financial problems.

The new CUC emergency order follows many of the same guidelines as last month's, but is updated to recognize the additional two megawatts of power provided by the Aggreko generators. The emergency generators are now providing 15 megawatts of temporary power to the island.

"Even though the Aggreko site runs cleaner than CUC's old Power Plant 1, EPA and DEQ air regulations would ordinarily prohibit the generators as a 'new source' in Lower Base," the statement said.

Last month it was learned that CUC did not get the proper permits from the Environmental Protection Agency for the generators.

Yesterday, Dean Higuchi, spokesman for EPA's Hawaii and Pacific Region, said the agency was waiting on some additional information from CUC and working with DEQ to sort out the situation.

The new order also allows for emergency procurement of goods and services necessary to repair a transformer that feeds the southern side of the island. CUC can't get the necessary warranty work done on a backup transformer that feeds the Chalan Kiya distribution transformer because it still owes the supplier $180,000, according to the declaration.

Also, the procurement authority addresses the possible collapse of a tank at Lower Base, containing 400,000 gallons of used diesel oil, and to buy goods and services to avoid future outages. CUC lost four megawatts of power in October due to scheduled maintenance at Power Plant 4 and forced outages caused a loss of 2 megawatts at Power Plant 1.

Fitial said he would ask legislative leaders to reconsider their decision to limit his powers to declare disaster emergencies.

"I need these constitutional tools to protect the people of the CNMI from rolling blackouts and other major emergencies facing our Commonwealth during this challenging period in our history," he said in the statement.

Since Fitial assumed office in January 2006, he has issued declarations or extensions of more than a dozen disaster emergencies for government agencies.

The CNMI is currently under three states of emergency: one for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., one for the lack of a full-time pharmacist at the Commonwealth Health Center, and one for the island of Anatahan, which experienced a volcanic eruption in 2003.

BEACH ROAD COLLISION NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Police investigate a car collision at an intersection along Beach Road yesterday. A northbound Red Toyota Ex with plate No. ABD 719 rammed into a Ford F150 with license plate CHI-CHA around 5:15pm.

REPORTERS'

From Page 1

at the San Vicente Elementary precinct, said within 30 minutes of opening the polling station, about 100 people had voted. David was making sure voters were not wearing clothing that would indicate who they were voting for and making sure there were no arguments. He was also making sure campaigners were 300 feet away from the polling location.

"They've been cooperating," he said. "It's been good."

■■■

Dolores Agulto, an election worker at San Vicente Elementary, said she had to wake up at 5am and would work past 8pm, but it's worth it, she said.

"It's helping the candidates and the CNMI government," she added.

■■■

Santiago Tudela, Department of Public Safety commissioner, voted at San Vicente Elementary around 8:30am, as did several officers from the Department of Corrections

■■■

Campaign tents for Chong Won, Pete A. Tenorio, Gregorio Camacho Sablan, John Gonzales and Luis Crisostimo were set up outside San Antonio Elementary. Wong, Sablan, Tenorio and Crisostimo also had campaign tents set up near San Vicente Elementary. Juan T. Lizama supporters set up two tents.

■■■

Of the candidates who put up tents near polling places on Saipan, Municipal Councilor Felipe Atalig's was seen to have the least number of supporters hanging around. High school teacher John Davis and former Tinian Sen. David Cing didn't put up tents at all.

■■■

Joseph M. Mendiola was among the supporters of retired judge Juan T. Lizama who was seen waving to motorists near Kagman Community Center. Mendiola also flashed motorists with a self-made keychain with his alias "Damoa" and the number 4, which is Lizama's number on the ballots. Mendiola claimed that he had predicted all major election results in the CNMI as well as the federalization of the Commonwealth's immigration. By today, Wednesday, or in the next couple of days, it can be told whether Mendiola is indeed a seer or is simply wrong this time.

■■■

At San Vicente Elementary School, many candidates' supporters and family members lined the shoulder of the road to wave to motorists. The relentless shouting of two individual supporters made the campaign lively. A woman would scream "All the way No. 2, thank you!" A man would immediately follow her chant, roaring "No. 8!"

■■■

Most candidates are aware of the importance of being seen at polling places where there are many registered voters. Shortly before noon, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, TV talk show host Oliver Gonzales, and former Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan were all seen waving to motorists near San Vicente Elementary School.

LOW

From Page 1

Approximately 13,000 voters registered to participate in this historic election, which drew nine candidates. Of the voters, about 12,000 were expected at the polls yesterday, and the rest were to vote absentee.

As of 3:30pm, barely 6,000 voters had cast their ballots, according to Frances Sablan, chairwoman of the Commonwealth Election Commission. The approximate turnout includes some 650 absentee ballots the Election Commission had received from off island. The commission requires mailed-in ballots to be postmarked Nov. 4 but it will continue to receive absentee ballots until Nov. 18.

There was no immediate word on the turnout rate for Tinian and Rota.

The counting of the ballots was scheduled to start midnight last night. Final results of yesterday's election will be known on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008, when the absentee ballots are counted.

Reasons for low turnout

While many on Saipan chose to simply not come, Sablan said there is also a good number of voters who showed up at the polls, only to find out their names had been taken off of the voter registry because they failed to re-register after going missing last election.

Work may have kept some voters in the private sector out of the voting booth in the early hours of the election, Sablan added.

While government employees got Election Day off with the simultaneous observance of Citizenship Day, most private companies remained open for business. Sablan said she expected the turnout to improve after normal business hours.

Another possible reason for the low turnout, Sablan said, is the number of people who have left the island and who may not have bothered to apply for absentee ballots or to complete the application process.

"I think the interest in this election is there," Sablan said, "and I know the candidates did their share in trying to reach their supporters. But there's also a number of reasons voters could not come—it's either this or that."

High turnout in others

House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, who monitored the election in Tanapag on behalf of his candidate, Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, said the slow Election Day was expected because there was only one seat on the line.

Still, he said the turnout was not bad, at least in the northern villages of Tanapag and San Roque, which had 70 percent of the voters cast their ballots as of 5pm yesterday.

In Kagman, 1,369 voters turned up out of the estimated 1,800 registered voters, representing a 76 percent turnout. The same turnout rate was noted in Oleai, where, as of 5pm, a total of 515 voted out of 720 registered voters.

Garapan, one of the largest election precincts, however, reflected the slow movement observed in most polls across the island. As of 4pm, just a little over 50 percent of Garapan's 2,000 registered voters had come out.

Ballot hand count

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said he was surprised the funds the Legislature appropriated for this election did not make it to the election board and that, as a result, the ballots would be counted manually.

"It's unfortunate this happened," Palacios said. "The Legislature did its job by finding the money for this election. But, at the end of the day, we'll just have to make do with what we have. We have done it [hand count] before; it will just take more time. Fortunately, we only have one race this election."

Some candidates also expressed disappointment, but said they trust the Election Commission to keep the election process fair and accurate.

Incumbent Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, from whose office the election funds were supposed to be taken, said he was unaware the money was not made available to the commission. But he also echoed Palacios' statement, saying, "Whether the ballots will be counted by machine or by hand doesn't really matter. The people will understand."

For his part, independent candidate John Oliver Gonzales said, "I respect the decision of the Commonwealth Election Commission. Ultimately, they're expected to do their job right."

Meanwhile, candidate Chong Won apparently was not clear about the source of funding for the federal election. "Isn't this supposed to be paid for with federal funds?" he asked. "Anyway, if there's no money, there's no money. What can we do?"

Peaceful elections

Except for minor bickering by some parties and emotional voters who failed to find their names, the historic election went smoothly and peacefully.

Department of Public Safety's patrol commander Sgt. Joe Saures told *Saipan Tribune* last night that the election on Saipan went well.

DPS did not receive any reports of untoward incidents on Tinian and Rota as well, according to Saures, who is the designated chief of the DPS election operation.

"The only problem that we encountered was the parties…the parties that were soliciting for votes alongside the roadways," he said.

Saures said they had to remind campaigners to keep to a 300-foot distance from polling places. He said no one was arrested.

"Everything went well very peacefully," he said. "It was just the parties going back and forth, bickering [and] teasing each other. That's normal," Saures said.

Police officers, however, had to keep a close eye on these to prevent people from ending up fighting, he added.

Saures said these incidents, which he described as minor, happened at San Vicente Elementary School and Garapan Elementary School.

DPS deployed 23 police officers on Saipan to maintain peace and order. At least one police officer was assigned at each polling place.

DPS earlier reminded the public that, pursuant to Public Law 15-52, any political activity within a 300-foot radius of polling places is prohibited during Election Day between 7am to 7pm.

Missing names

Sablan, the Election Commission chairperson, echoed the police's assessment, saying the election went very smoothly.

However, there were a lot of questions and referrals coming from the different election precincts, she said. The problem, Sablan said, was about names that were missing from the roster.

"There were some voters who were referred to the central office because their names were not on the roster. A lot of those cases show that they failed to vote last year," she said.

Sablan said the problem occurred because these people failed to rectify the problem by registering anew with the Election Commission before the deadline.

"When they failed to vote last year, their names were automatically taken out of the roster. There's a good number [of incidents like these], maybe 50 of them on Saipan," Sablan said.

She said some voters became emotional when their names were missing.

"Some of them accepted the matter gracefully, yet others…one almost poked the eye of our staff because he was just too irate. Some voters take it to the extreme," Sablan said.

Around 9am, election officers at Oleai Elementary School reported that at least two individuals could not cast their vote because their names were not on the list because they failed to register or re-register.

Election supervisor Edward Villagomez said they instructed those individuals to verify their names at the Election Commission's headquarters.

Villagomez said they encountered more of these later in the afternoon. He said that aside from these problems the conduct of the polls was peaceful and orderly.

At the Municipal Council polling place (District 2), Election supervisor Antonio A. Benavente said they also encountered minor problems like people who failed to re-register. Out of the 1,005 total registered voters, 624 had already cast their votes by 5pm. ***(with Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

CNMI drafts some new immigration regulations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has drafted some new immigration regulations for the Commonwealth, according to Immigration Director Melvin Grey.

Grey told *Saipan Tribune* that the proposed new immigration regulations are expected to be published any time for public comment.

"There are a number of things we've changed. Some are minor details and some are major," he said.

Under the proposed regulations, the director said, they want to remove from Immigration the responsibility of inspecting school facilities where foreign workers want to study.

"We want to let the other authorities, the educational authorities, to say 'yeah this is an adequate classroom set up,'" Grey said.

Other regulations include the requirements for unaccompanied minors traveling to the Commonwealth.

"I had this as a policy for a little over a year now. And we cited it in the regulations to make it more formal. This is to protect the kids from any harm," he said.

Under the current CNMI immigration rules, all visitor's entry permit applications for unaccompanied juveniles must have accompanying documents to explain why the juveniles are traveling without their parents.

A lot of documentations are also needed from the home government of the visitors to prove that it is fine for that child to travel.

Local labor and immigration laws still apply to the CNMI until June 2009. The transition program under the federalization law will take effect June 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014.

Tatao Tano proposes statue for a Chamorro *magalahi*

Local activist group Taotao Tano CNMI Inc. is calling for the creation of a so-called Chamorro Park Monument.

In a statement issued yesterday, association president Gregorio Cruz Jr. said such a landmark would "showcase and symbolize our indigenous local ancestral cultural traditions, identity, and way of life."

He said a statue of a Chamorro *magalahi*, which means chief, should be chosen by people through public hearings where they would identify who among the *magalahis* will be honored.

Cruz said the statue would proudly represent the indigenous Chamorro people.

"As president of Taotao Tano, I personally feel the serious need to establish such a park monument [because] our Chamorro culture, traditions, and identity must be protected and respected, for it has been long forthcoming," Cruz said.

He said it is a shame that in "our homeland we have the Carolinian Affairs, a statue in Managaha symbolizing their *magalahi*, a Japanese monument, Korean monument, the Sugar King Park, the American Memorial Park, and now a proposed national monument in our northernmost islands but no Chamorro Park Monument to symbolize and represent our people."

Cruz said the unique and interesting part of this proposal are the booths to be made available at the park. He said it would be exclusively operated and managed by local indigenous Chamorros.

Cruz said he envisions that one day he would give less fortunate fellow Chamorros the opportunity to establish their own business and be self-sufficient, supporting each other.

What better way to do it, he said, than to give them the opportunity to manage and operate their own booths but they must operate it as a family—"meaning your wife, children and grandchildren selling and promoting anything of cultural significance."

"This is the time our local elected leaders should consider supporting the establishment of such a Chamorro Park Monument for they owe it to us," he said.

Cruz said they are now working on the details of this plan.

The group will seek the public's opinion on this, including where to put up the park.

"The funding will be a challenge but I am positive that every local will support the cause to establish our own park monument."

He said he is committed and determined to make this a reality, with the help of people. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Ex-convict gets 19-day prison term for stealing from chapel

The Superior Court has imposed a 19-day prison term on an ex-convict who was one of two persons who stole some items from a chapel in Garapan.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Hilario Teigita Angui to two years in prison, all suspended except for 19 days.

Following a plea agreement, Govendo gave the 25-year-old Angui credit for the time he has already served in jail.

Govendo placed the defendant on unsupervised probation and ordered him to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

The judge said Angui is liable for any restitution owed to Victory Chapel.

Angui was required to write a letter of apology to the victim and perform 100 hours of community service.

Angui agreed to cooperate with the prosecution of the case and testify against his co-defendant, Julian Sablan.

The Attorney General's Office charged Angui with burglary and theft. He entered a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty to theft.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 12, 2007, Angui conspired with one or more persons to steal from Victory Chapel three DVD players and assorted DVD movies.

In February 2008, the Superior Court sentenced Angui to 120 days for stealing a laptop computer from the Commonwealth Health Center in September 2007. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Far left, Republican candidate Pete A. Tenorio, third from left, standing, poses with supporters shortly after casting his ballot in Garapan. Tenorio will be the last person to hold the position of CNMI resident representative to the Washington, DC, following the creation of a Northern Marianas delegate seat in the U.S. Congress.

AGNES E. DONATO

Independent candidate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan slides his ballot into the locked box at Garapan Elementary School.

AGNES E. DONATO

AGNES E. DONATO

Family members and friends flank independent candidate Felipe Atalig, second from right, seated, at his campaign booth outside the Garapan polling station.

AGNES E. DONATO

Independent candidate Chong Won visits supporters in Tanapag after casting his ballot in the Kagman polling station.

AGNES E. DONATO

Independent candidate John Oliver Gonzales drops his ballot at the Garapan polling station.

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John S. DelRosario, Jr.,
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'NMI delegate will face many challenges in DC'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Whoever the CNMI sends to Washington, D.C. in January—be it the Republican candidate or any of the independents running for delegate—faces the challenge of dealing with a Democrat-controlled Congress, according to the CNMI's longest serving resident representative to the nation's capital.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta, who represented the CNMI for 12 years in Washington, yesterday said the Commonwealth would need "a good communicator" for a delegate to get the most out of its hard-won seat in Congress.

"Because I am a Republican, I'm hoping that we send to Washington a Republican delegate," Babauta said. "However, we know that we're going to have a Democrat-dominated Congress [in 2009]. In either case, whether we send a Republican or an independent candidate, they're going to have a challenge on their hands working with the Democratic Congress."

The new delegate, according to Babauta, will need to work closely with Democrat leaders such as Rep. George Miller, who for many years had pushed for labor and immigration reform in the CNMI, and Rep. Nick Rahall, the current chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over insular affairs.

"The delegate is going to have to go to Washington and introduce himself to the members, and to make a case for the CNMI. I hope that this person is one who is going to be a good communicator—one that can articulate the issues before Congress about the CNMI, who can put forth the agenda of the CNMI early on so that the members are aware of what the critical needs are of the CNMI, and who can develop a working relationship starting with the House Natural Resources committee and to expand to other committees and members of the Congress who have a keen interest in the CNMI," Babauta said.

Still, he said, having a seat in Congress is a feat in itself.

"It's going to be an exciting time for the CNMI," Babauta said. "We're sending somebody for the first time who is actually going to be a member of Congress. He doesn't vote on the floor. Nonetheless, we're [Commonwealth] going to be at the table, participating in the debate and in the discussion."

The nine candidates running for delegate are Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's current Washington representative, incumbent Sen. Luis Crisostimo, former Election Commission executive director Gregorio C. Sablan, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, former senator David Cing, Saipan municipal councilor Felipe Atalig, local television talk show John Oliver Gonzales, high school teacher John Davis, and businessman Chong Won.

Of the candidates, only Tenorio, a Republican, has strong ties with a national political party. Cing represents the Northern Marianas Democratic Party, which has yet to get official recognition from its national counterpart. Crisostimo claims to be a member of the national Democratic Party, but is running as an independent after the local Democrats declined to endorse him. All of the other candidates are running as independents.

The Northern Marianas is the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation The law, which in May 2008 granted the Commonwealth the delegate seat, also allowed Washington to take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

Under the measure, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

The final results of yesterday's election will be known on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008, when the absentee ballots are counted.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

Santiago M. Babauta, accompanied by his son, former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, signs the voter registry in the San Roque polling station.

AGNES E. DONATO

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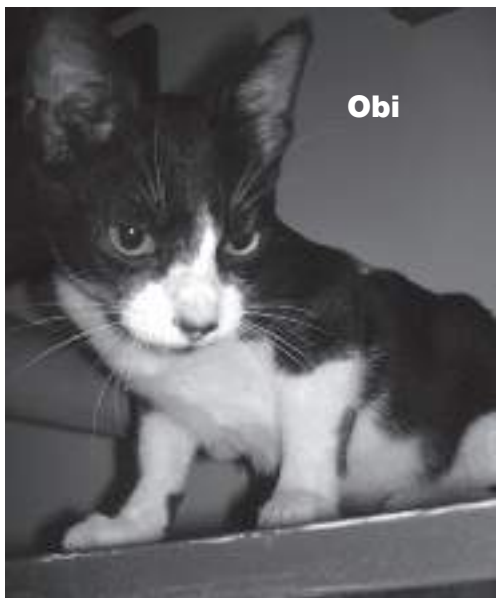

Both cats are male 5 1/2 months old and have been neutered, so no serious cat fights over females, aggressive behavior, or peeing on furniture! Also, both cats have been vaccinated and dewormed. They get along well with dogs and other animals. They are good outside cats, but are litter trained for those days/nights that they spend inside.

If you are interested in adopting these super friendly cats, contact Madison at white_wolf933@hotmail.com, by cell phone at 789-5050, home number 285-9095, or PAWS at 285-PAWS. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 05, 1999

Go out and vote

All is set for tomorrow's political exercise as the CNMI's 14,325 voters gear up to pick new senators, congressmen, municipal councilors and Board of Education members, and to decide whether or not they want to amend the CNMI Constitution. The voters will also decide if they want Timothy Bellas to continue serving as a Superior Court judge after the expiration of his term.

Teno: 'Let your conscience decide'

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio called on voters to go out and exercise their political rights as he expressed disappointment over lack of public education on crucial constitutional amendments up for ratification at tomorrow's midterm elections. More than 14,000 voters are expected to troop to polling places this Saturday to pick their representatives to the House, the Senate, Board of Education and the municipal council as well as cast their ballots on four legislative initiatives and on a judge retention.

November 05, 2001

GOP in landslide victory

GOP gubernatorial tandem Juan N. Babauta and Diego T. Benavente led the Republican Party to a landslide victory in Saturday's general election. The BB tandem grabbed 42.8 percent of the total votes cast, followed by Covenant Party's Benigno R. Fitial and Rita H. Inos with 2,963 votes or 24.4 percent of the overall votes.

...as Republicans celebrate

A sudden drizzle at 7:30am couldn't dampen the exuberant spirits at the Republican Party headquarters yesterday morning, as supporters whooped it up at the apparent victory of the Babauta-Benavente tandem in the Saturday polls. The cheers and the catcalls floated across the early morning air on Middle Road, with expansive applause punctuating the speeches made by the winning tandem, minutes after the Board of Elections finished counting the unofficial tally of votes, with Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta and Rep. Diego Benavente leading the Fitial-Inos team by 2,231 votes.

November 05, 2002

Comfy airport checks sought

The Rota and Tinian Legislative Delegations are seeking to streamline intra-CNMI airport inspections, with a proposal that passengers entering the Commonwealth be subjected to general inspection only at their final island destination. Sen. Joaquin Adriano, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, has requested Gov. Juan N. Babauta to review the current policy requiring all passengers arriving at the Rota airport-transiting from Guam-to deplane and pass through Immigration, Customs and Quarantine prior to their final destination: either Tinian or Saipan.

Experts to discuss NMI's fuel situation

The House Committee on Commerce has invited on- and off-island gasoline experts to discuss with the House of Representatives the CNMI's fuel situation, according to committee chair Rep. Andrew S. Salas. The commerce committee has tapped the expertise of Pacific Petroleum CEO Richard Reddy, who is reportedly bringing to Saipan in mid-November an executive of a major oil supplier.

November 05, 2003

Team formed to recruit nurses

The Department of Public Health has formed a core group to intensify its recruitment of nurses to meet its direct hiring deadline of Jan. 1, 2004. "We'll recruit from everywhere," said DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider, without specifying what countries to focus on. Normally, the CNMI gets its nursing staff from the Philippines.

Babauta sees need to beef up law enforcement efforts

Reacting to a recent report by the National Drug Intelligence Center on the CNMI's current illegal drug situation, Gov. Juan N. Babauta stressed the need to beef up law enforcement, particularly customs. Babauta also said local enforcement agencies would continue to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to curtail illegal drug operations in the CNMI.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's Department of Land Management leadership recently signed an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve/Department of Defense "Statement of Support for the Guard And Reserve," joining other employers nationwide and in Guam in pledging to support the 1.3 million men and women that serve the island and country as members of the National Guard and Reserve. Pictured from left are Paul Santos, chief surveyor; Bernardita Taitague, administrative services officer; Terezo Mortera, director, DLM; Ray Taimanglo, Military Outreach director, Guam-CNMI Committee; Benny Paulino, chairman, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee; John Taitague, program coordinator IV, GIS/LIS; Margarita Borja, land agent supervisor, Planning Division; Carl Untalan, acting chief planner, Planning Division; Albert Pascua, acting cartographic supervisor, Survey Division; and Ernest Santos, land agent supervisor, acting Land Administrator.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting today at Fiesta

Kenan Knieriem, first vice president and account executive in charge of Merrill Lynch's Institutional Advisory Division in Honolulu, will discuss with Saipan Chamber of Commerce members the challenges facing the NMI Retirement Fund, and what is being done to ensure the continued health of the Fund. The meeting will be held today, Nov. 5, at Fiesta Resort's Azucena Rooms. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for public. ***(SCC)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Nov. 14-16, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. To join, contact the Fall 2008 Registration Couple, John and Vicky Mafnas, at 285-8454, e-mail vbmafnas@yahoo.com. There are only a few slots open. ***(PR)***

ICONNECT RETAIL SHOP

iConnect recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new retail shop located at the entrance to the GPO Food Court in Guam. Seen in photo are Jake Woo, iConnect General Manager, Jeselyn Tan Yu, iConnect Member, Monte Mesa, GPO General Manager and Matt Giger,iConnect Vice President. iConnect is Guam and the CNMI's premier wireless communications company specializing in radio Push-To-Talk services with cellular, texting and other value added services.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

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ITB NO.: ITB09-CDD-006
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INVITATION TO BID
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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP09-CHC-010

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

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MELL SENOKO	012E	10/25 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/18 Sat	10/31 Fri	10/27 Mon	10/26 Sun	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	10/27 Mon	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/4 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	017E	11/1 Sat	10/30 Thu	10/30 Thu	10/28 Tue	10/25 Sat	11/7 Fri	11/3 Mon	11/2 Sun	10/26 Sun	10/26 Sun	11/3 Mon	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/11 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	025E	11/8 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/6 Thu	11/4 Tue	11/1 Sat	11/14 Fri	11/10 Mon	11/9 Sun	11/2 Sun	11/2 Sun	11/10 Mon	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/18 Tue
MELL SENOKO	013E	11/15 Sat	11/13 Thu	11/13 Thu	11/11 Tue	11/8 Sat	11/21 Fri	11/17 Mon	11/16 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/17 Mon	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/25 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	018E	11/22 Sat	11/20 Thu	11/20 Thu	11/18 Tue	11/15 Sat	11/28 Fri	11/24 Mon	11/23 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/24 Mon	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/2 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	026E	11/29 Sat	11/27 Thu	11/27 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/22 Sat	12/5 Fri	12/1 Mon	11/30 Sun	11/23 Sun	11/23 Sun	12/1 Mon	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/9 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	012E	11/8 Sat	11/9 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/11 Tue	11/13 Thu	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/18 Tue	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/27 Thu	12/16 Tue	12/14 Sun	11/26 Wed
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STADT HAMBURG	025E	11/22 Sat	11/23 Sun	11/23 Sun	11/25 Tue	11/27 Thu	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/2 Tue	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/11 Thu	12/30 Tue	12/28 Sun	12/10 Wed
MELL SENOKO	013E	11/29 Sat	11/30 Sun	11/30 Sun	SKIP	12/4 Thu	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/9 Tue	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/18 Thu	1/6 Tue	1/4 Sun	12/17 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	018E	12/6 Sat	12/7 Sun	12/7 Sun	12/9 Tue	12/11 Thu	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/16 Tue	12/19 Fri	12/20 Sat	12/25 Thu	1/13 Tue	1/11 Sun	12/24 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	026E	12/13 Sat	12/14 Sun	12/14 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Thu	12/19 Fri	12/20 Sat	12/23 Tue	12/26 Fri	12/27 Sat	1/1 Thu	1/20 Tue	1/18 Sun	12/31 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 310

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Pitfalls at the polls

Republicans are worried that Tuesday's presidential election will be tainted by fraudulent votes; Democrats fear that minority voters will be disenfranchised. About the only thing the two sides agree on is that the election promises to be messy because of a record turnout and a huge number of newly registered voters—so messy, in fact, that it could call into question the validity of the outcome and produce another meltdown like Florida in 2000.

Actually, the contest will only be messy if it's close. If there's a landslide for either John McCain or Barack Obama, the problems in individual precincts—a few provisional ballots thrown in the trash, long lines that discourage voter participation, malfunctioning machines—will have little bearing on the result. Yet as trying as a contested election would be, such a crisis may be the only thing that will motivate Congress to fix the serious problems that remain in our federal balloting system.

The fiasco of 2000, the year "hanging chad" entered the lexicon and the outcome hinged on rulings by the Supreme Court, prompted major reforms under the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Unfortunately, partisan wrangling left the act full of ambiguities, with states and counties left to resolve them.

Potential trouble spots abound, including rules that vary from state to state on whether photo IDs are required and on verifying the identities of first-time voters. The act requires states to keep centralized databases of voter registration lists and to check names against other databases, such as Social Security or motor vehicle registries. Yet it doesn't say how precisely the information on these databases has to match. Four states, including Florida, require "perfect matches." Something as simple (and common) as a misplaced hyphen in a name could mean that a voter is handed a provisional ballot rather than a regular one.

And those provisional ballots, created under the act as a way of dealing with voters whose identities can't be confirmed at the polls, could be trouble. Some states require people to cast their vote in the correct precinct for their provisional ballot to count, while others don't. The reasons for issuing provisional ballots also vary.

Meanwhile, the act doesn't prohibit counties from disproportionately allocating poll resources, meaning that some polling places might not have enough machines or poll workers to meet demand—suspiciously, this tends to happen most often in poor and minority neighborhoods. It's still too easy to register nonexistent people as voters. And the failure to come up with a uniform national ballot design or voting system invites mistakes and questionable results.

The next Congress and administration should attend to these problems no matter which party is in control, though unfortunately there will be little motivation to do so if Tuesday's election runs smoothly. Not fixing the system only raises the risk of a breakdown in 2012.

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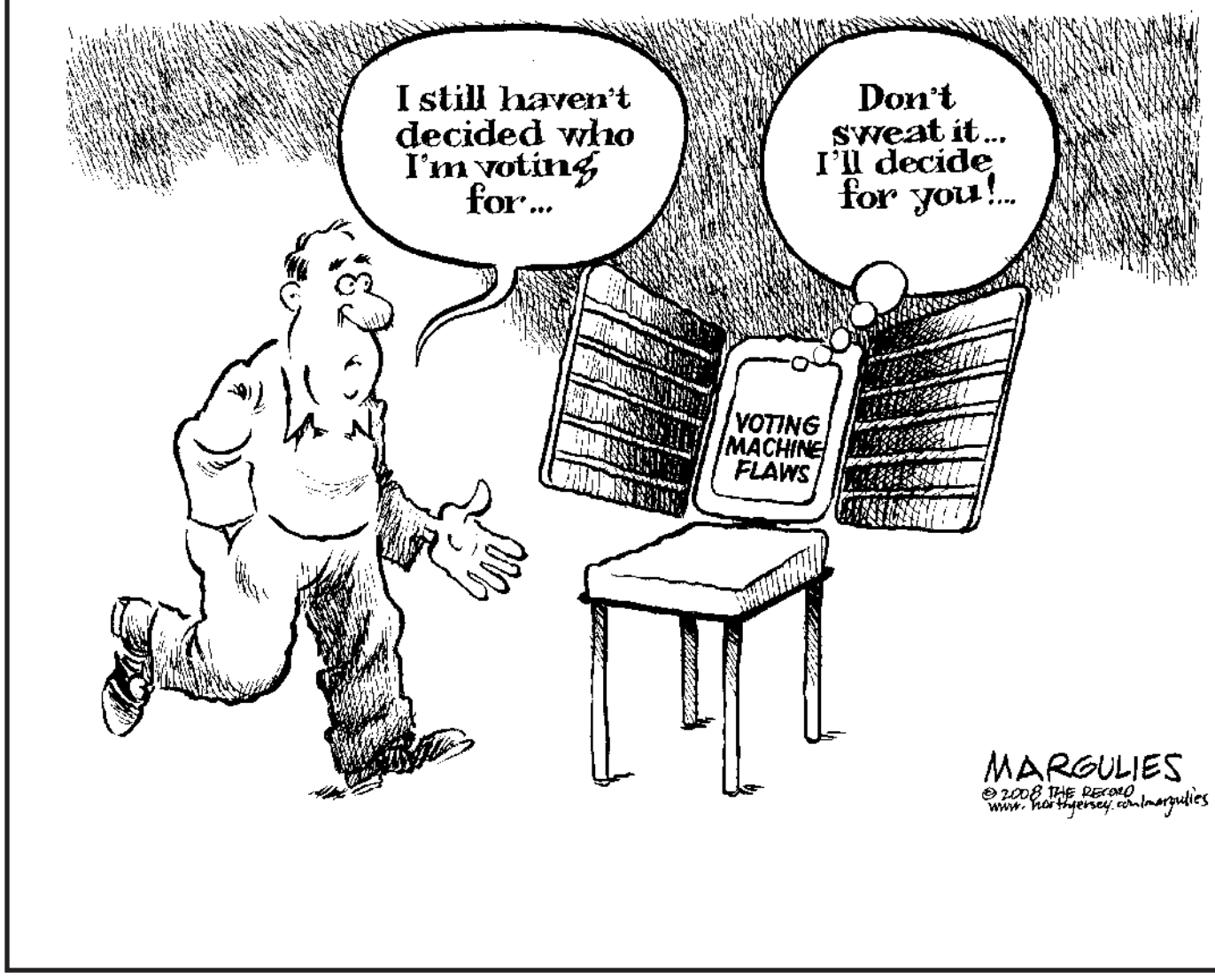
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A test that's sure to come

By JACKSON DIEHL
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Diehl is deputy editorial page editor for The Washington Post.

Of course Joe Biden is right—there will be an early international crisis to test the new president. There almost always is. In April 2001—long before Sept. 11—George W. Bush had to react when a U.S. military surveillance aircraft was forced down in China and its crew detained for 11 days. The episode started as an accident, but Beijing used it to measure a new executive with scant international experience. In 1993 Bill Clinton was blindsided by the "Blackhawk Down" firefight in Mogadishu. After 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush, he abruptly withdrew U.S. forces from Somalia—and taught Osama bin Laden not to fear American power.

Chances are the next administration's first test will be a surprise. Yet some probes are predictable. For the past few months several familiar U.S. adversaries have been waiting out the Bush administration while painstakingly setting up traps they can spring on the incoming president. A few other actors are thinking about the ways they can get their problems onto what will be, from inauguration day on, an impossibly busy White House agenda.

Take North Korea—please, as Condoleezza Rice might want to say. The State Department's efforts over the past year to negotiate the nuclear disarmament of that charter "axis of evil" member has deteriorated into something very like the status quo the Bush administration repudiated when it first took office. In exchange for not restarting its bomb production line, the regime of Kim Jong Il extracts bribes, like its recent removal from State's list of terrorism sponsors.

It's not difficult to predict that sometime in 2009 the North will trigger another crisis when it refuses to honor its disarmament promises, threatens to fire up its plutonium reprocessing plant and demands new concessions from Washington. Would a fresh Obama (or McCain) team flinch? Not just in Pyongyang but in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo, any such probe will be minutely observed.

Next is Iran, another stop on the axis that will remain roguish even after Bush's departure. In recent months, the military fronts controlled by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard—in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and southern Iraq and on the Persian Gulf—have been almost eerily quiet. But they've not been abandoned. On the contrary, Israeli sources say long- and short-range missiles are pouring into Lebanon, despite a U.N. ban on arms deliveries to Hezbollah. Since a cease-fire began in late June, Hamas has imported through tunnels from Egypt an estimated 20 tons of explosives; dozens of anti-tank missiles; and tons of metal, fertilizer and chemicals used to build the rockets aimed at Israeli cities. U.S. officials say the camps in Iran where the Guard trains "special groups" for attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq are still busy.

The question is when, not whether, this firepower will be put to use. By the spring Tehran will be seeking the measure of not only a new U.S. president but also a new Israeli prime minister—who could be the hawk Binyamin Netanyahu. It will be preparing for its own presidential election, in which Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—health permitting—will seek re-election. Will the Guard—the most hard-line of Iran's competing factions—judge that a flare-up in Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq or the Persian Gulf is the best way to intimidate the new U.S. and Israeli leaders, undermine any move toward negotiations with Washington by Iranian doves, and bolster the campaign of Guard patron Ahmadinejad? Though Iranian moves are always hard to predict, that one would not be a surprise.

Beyond the rogues are the regulars: the countries that depend on American attention, positive or negative, to fuel their own political cycles—and are good at finding ways to grab it when they feel ignored. There are Latin American demagogues such as Hugo Chavez, who need a Yanqui enemy, and small Eurasian countries such as Georgia, which need a U.S. shield against Russia. There are the Russians themselves—who measure their country's power by its ability to thwart American initiatives.

And then there are the Israelis and Palestinians. At the annual Weinberg conference of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy in September, two senior surrogates for the McCain and Obama campaigns agreed on one large point: that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would rank far down the new president's list of priorities. Don't bet on it. "Both the Israelis and the Palestinians will want to elevate their issues on the agenda," says Shibley Telhami, a Middle East scholar at the University of Maryland. One way to do that is to create a crisis—for example, a collapse of the Palestinian Authority or an Israeli strike on Gaza. Another is a positive surprise—maybe, an agreement by Hamas to a referendum on whether to accept a two-state solution. Either way, if the next president does not soon call on the Middle East, it will find a way to call him.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SAIPANPRENEUR PROFILE

Ashley Moffatt-Uys of Fu Dogs & Qi

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

On the first floor of the Marianas Business Center (the "Nauru Building" with the big "360" on the top), there exists a unique store, with a unique name. The layout and offerings reflect the artistic bent and passion of its owner, Ashley Moffatt-Uys (Uys is pronouced "ace").

The store is called *Fu Dogs & Qi* (pronounced chi), and it's the newest business on Saipan, offering an eclectic and rare selection of antiques and objects of art that can extend the wonderful multi-ethnic, multi-cultural experience we have on Saipan.

Walt: How did you discover Saipan?

Ashley: "I first came to Saipan in December of 1996. Some friends I had met in Europe suggested I meet them for Christmas here on the island. The moment that I stepped off the plane and set foot on the island, I felt as if I had come home. I felt a strong connection to the people, and to the land that I can't explain. I didn't know anyone here, but I felt as if I belonged.

"After that first trip, I looked into the possibility of spending more time here. As a corporate art consultant, my job each year is usually finished by November, since companies usually are not buying any more art for their offices from Thanksgiving until February. So that's what I've been doing for the past 12 years: spending three months of every year on beautiful Saipan!"

Walt: Now for the most important question on my mind. What on earth are Fu Dogs and what's the Qi connection?

Ashley: "Fu Dogs are the symbolic guardians of temples. They are referred to as temple dogs. They can be dragons, dogs or the lions that you often see in front of state buildings or large homes. I became fascinated with Fu Dogs about 30 years ago, when they kept popping up in my life. There are many stories about them. They are mythical beasts who protect and guard, but also return lost items."

Walt: …And Qi?

Ashley: "Qi is energy. Qi is one of the alternate spellings of the Chinese word for the life energy that inhabits all things. My husband is a naturopath who works with energy in the body and uses natural products in his healing; products that are not typically available here—you can find him here at the store sometimes. So, when I was thinking of a name for the business, I thought the Fu dogs and qi was a nice marriage of the things that I was passionate about."

Walt: How did you get into art and antiques?

Ashley: "I came to art and antiques through a really amazing path, which allowed me to touch and feel pieces growing up rather than just see them from behind a rope.

"My grandfather, Edwin Broun Fred, was a famous scientist who was born and raised in Middleburg, Virginia. He got his Ph.D. in Germany, then in the U.S., moved himself up to professor, dean and eventually president of the University of Wisconsin

"As a child, I was always fascinated by the artwork in the homes my grandfather would take me to visit. One lady in particular would sit me down and let me hold a Ming vase, a Rembrandt, or take me to see a Chippendale chair. She would teach me things about each particular piece she owned.

"My grandmother was also a collector of fine things. When my grandfather was president of the university he would get these remarkable gifts from the visiting dignitaries from all over the world."

Walt: What's your passion? Are you an artist?

Ashley: "I am not an artist but I have a lot of appreciation for it. If I had had a degree, I probably would have ended up working in a museum, because that's what one does with a Ph.D. in art history. But that was highly confining and limiting to me. I don't have a degree. I didn't finish, but it has helped me go in my own direction, and create a life that is right for me. What I really always wanted to do is travel the world and find beautiful objects, and now I get to do that.

"What fascinates me is the passion of the people who created these objects. Not the historical significance necessarily, but the passion. Art imparts some of the people's energy who have had them, their soul. That's what appeals to me."

Walt: Why an art and antique store here on Saipan?

Ashley: "I truly believe that the soul of a country is found in its art. Even if you can't grasp the symbolism, you can feel the soul of the person who created it, the families who owned it, and the countries from which they came. We have a very unique cultural mix here on Saipan. People from all over the world pass through, but may never get more than a surface appreciation of the other countries. Now they can discover so much more about what life was and is like in many of our residents' and visitors' countries. It's really fascinating."

Walt: Where do you get these unique pieces?

Ashley: "For many generations in China, families buried a lot of their treasures with the departed to keep them safe. Since China has opened up, one of the things that's happening is that families of the departed and others are digging up the graves to find them. As a result, many pieces are coming out and being made available at reasonable prices; amazing pieces of art that haven't been available to the world at large until now.

WALT GOODRIDGE

Fu Dogs & Qi owner Ashley Moffatt-Uys and store manager Marlon Regaton inside the new shop at the first floor of the Marianas Business Center (the former Nauru Building).

"The pieces from China are from the Ming Dynasty [1368-1644AD] and the Qing Dynasty [1644-1911], but I don't try to broadcast that anything is a Ming or a Qing. It's more about the emotion that it elicits. I am not selling things at the thousands and thousands of dollars that they are worth. I bring in beautiful objects that are easy to love whether they were made 600 years ago, or last week. But, in case you want the same thrill collector's experience, all my pieces do have an official seal or a stamp on the bottom which indicate their authenticity and which dynasty they are from."

Walt: So, what else can people find at Fu Dogs & Qi?

Ashley: "Primarily Asian antiques, but we have textiles, art prints and we'll be getting furniture soon. We have beautiful temple bells and kimonos. *[They also have prints from 19th Century Japanese artist Hiroshige]* The Asian antiques are from China, Japan, Korea and Tibet. Many things were carried out of China and into Tibet.

"A lot of the pieces were made from precious metals, but because they were buried underground, they look newer than they might otherwise.

"Sometimes a piece looks better with many years of wear on it, and sometimes it looks better polished. I polish up many of the pieces to restore them to show them in their best light."

Walt: Who's your target audience?

Ashley: "Interestingly, I'll tell you something. We've been open unofficially for a few days now. While Marlon [Marlon Regaton, store manager] and I were arranging and organizing the store, lots of different people have wandered in. I've been surprised by the range of people who've taken things home. It's been lovely. Everyone. We've had tourists, locals, expats, contract workers, business owners. I hope people stop by and take a trip through Asia by walking through the store. We have things that anyone can be passionate about!"

Walt: So, why should I consider owning art and antiques?

Ashley: "Beautiful art feeds your soul; it brings sweetness to your life even in hard times. You can look at something beautiful and take yourself away from the stress. Personally, it makes *me* feel very wealthy when I own a beautiful piece of art. Even if it isn't expensive, it makes me feel good that I can still surround myself with the finer things in life.

"The right piece for you might be something that you put in your home or office—something that can be a focal point for the space. Or, it can be a loving gift. With the holidays coming up, it's a unique thing to share a valuable antique with someone you love. Or, it might be the perfect symbol to commemorate a birthday, a wedding, or honoring a friendship—an antique is a piece of beauty that has survived many ages."

Walt: Tell me about the grand opening.

Ashley: "This Thursday, Nov. 6, through Saturday Nov. 8, from 11am until 8pm every day, we're offering a special discount of 15 percent off every item. We don't work on a high mark up because we want to keep things affordable.

"I've also been an art consultant and interior designer, so I am available to help people make a good selection of the right art to help all of the elements in their home or office work together in harmony."

Walt: Finally, what advice can you give to other passionpreneurs?

Ashley: "Do what you love. Because I'm so passionate about antiques and furniture, I knew that I wanted to find them, and be around them as much as I could. So this business seemed the most natural way for me to live. It allows me to be surrounded by the things that I love and to share them with others.

"No matter what your passion, I believe that your joy at being able to do what you love will be contagious, and that's always good for business!"

[You can reach Fu Dogs & Qi on Saipan at 670 235-9996; It's the second store on the left as you enter the building]

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

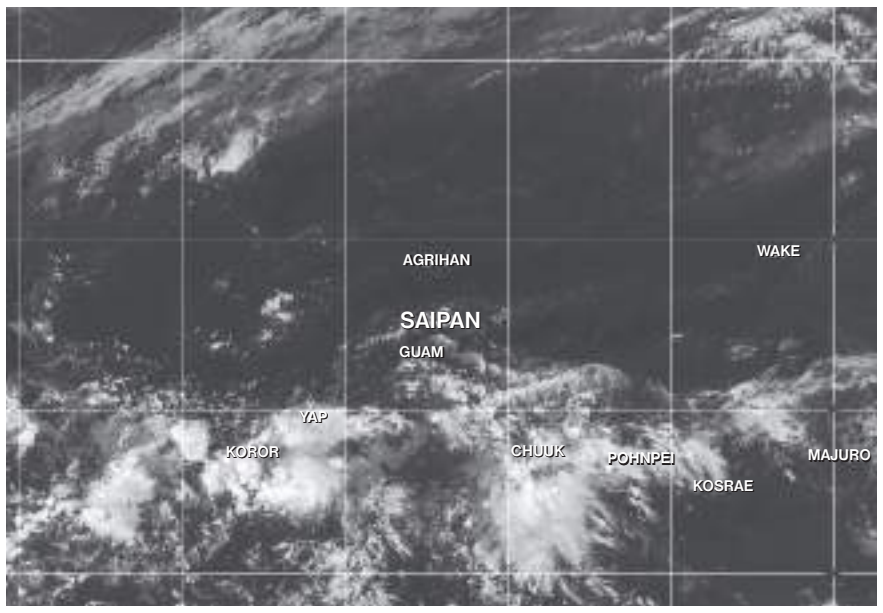
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼41
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼68
New York	Rain	▲60	▼52
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼56
Paris	Cloudy	▲53	▼46
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Rome	Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼54
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Washington, DC	Rain	▲59	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in several areas. One area southeast of the Mariana Islands is from 12N145E to 12N150E to 7N150E to 8N147E back to 12N145E. Another area is from Chuuk across Pohnpei to just north of Kosrae or within 75 miles of a line from 8N152E to 7N163E. A third area is east of Majuro or within 75 miles of a line from 6N175E eastward past 6N180. Low-level convergence and upper-level divergence are also causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in three areas. One area is near Palau within 75 miles of a line from 5N132E to 8N134E. Another area is south of Yap from 9N135E to 9N141E to 6N141E to 5N137E back to 9N135E. The third area is south of Chuuk between the equator and 7N from 149E to 156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:13AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
2:06PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:45PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:09PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:16AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:16AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:57AM	11:32PM
Thursday	12:37PM	
Friday	1:16PM	12:22AM
Saturday	1:53PM	1:13AM
Sunday	2:31PM	2:04AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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OPINION

Letter to the Editor

The politics of hope

It would seem to be anxiety time in Obamaland and panic time at McCain's. By sundown today, we shall have a good idea of who the 44th President of the United States of American is going to be. But of the folks over in a BBC-reported Ohio rally for Obama, 70 percent of them were reported to have already voted and were there at the rally more to celebrate what is perceived to be a turning point in American electoral politics.

That turning point is symbolized by three words in the ubiquitous plastered words in huge letters at almost every local organizers' office of Obama's Ground Game: **Respect. Empower. Include.** The tide might very well have shifted from the traditional politics of conflict and confrontation to the hope-filled politics of collaboration and cooperation. "I'll vote for the Chick," might be popping up in Virginia, but the hardcore gamblers in Vegas are betting 9-1 on Obama!

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on Ancient Civilizations and so we trace the evolution of Empire from Sargon the Great of Akkad in Mesopotamia in his dissent against the King of Kish, to George W. Bush in his rarefied ascent into the heights of American Eagle global supremacy from the dugout of the Texas Rangers in Dallas. But, as David Korten chronicles in his, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, a grassroots movement is afoot and is gaining momentum, locally and globally.

In a recent medical leave trip to Dallas, Texas, a couple of weeks ago, I had a chance to visit with colleagues in the area who are involved and active in the Obama political campaign. I was amazed at the extent of their participation in the getting-out-the-vote process and impressed with the level of commitment they exhibited to the creation and sustenance of broad-based ground-level local organizations. There was ease over the paradoxes arising from diversity, and tolerance over unresolved apparent contradictions.

Colleagues adept and skilled in the technology of participation, honed in community organizing as a prerequisite to the delivery of public services, and experienced in the lively field of organic organizational development and intentional corporate culture backyard gardening, were only too delighted to lend their expertise in the practices of empowerment and the sustainable base of authentic and care-filled inclusion.

Some of them will be meeting Nov. 17-21, 2008, in Takayama, Japan, when the Institute of Cultural Affairs International, along with global partners including UNDP Poverty Practice and CIVICUS, will host the 7th quadrennial Global Conference on Human Development. Bringing together development practitioners, community leaders, policy innovators, government, the private sector, and seasoned facilitators, participants will explore our most pressing human development challenges—from poverty to disease to ecological sustainability—and identify new solutions and design new approaches to resolving them. Through a participatory process, the conference will empower participants to share their knowledge and experience and directly participate in creating strategies to achieve improved human development outcomes.

There is, viewing all the youtube.com reports at the ground level, in this U.S. electoral year the heightened sense of an emancipation from the fear-based activism of post-9/11, and liberation from the terror-terrorizing apocalyptic prophecies of GWB's eight-year occupancy of the White House. In the ambience of the current Obama world, freedom from fear is empowered by the audacity of hope, and the shift is into the art and discipline of progressive political activism rather than the stale politics of despair.

As has been true in pedagogy that the best way to learn is to teach what you learn, the same holds true with community organizing—the best way to follow is to lead the way on the method or pathway one is following. To practice participatory methods is to embody in our time the politics of hope. We have all witnessed the aristocratic disdain over the messiness of the common masses, a hubris that our CNMI legislators are known to be afflicted with, for the *hoi polloi* is often untidy, and the wily human factor does not easily lend itself to ease of management and simple fiscal control.

The Clintons used the spatial imagery of the Man from Hope, i.e., Hope, Arkansas, but Obama gave the sentiment considerable depth with his Audacity of Hope. Hope became an operational term, a rather practical set of procedures as terms of engagement and participation in the political process.

Now, grassroots organizers are at the helm. Their mantra: Respect. Empower. Include.

This would be "respect" of the indicative. It is not respect for what ought or should be; it is accepting and affirming just what is, and "just as I am without one plea." Where before, power was shared only by those who belonged, the gates of significant discourse and meaningful interaction has since been left wide open. Many are responding to the signs of the times, and those who see the need, they do the deed!

"Empower" the present assets. Most planning sessions deteriorate into whining over the absence of one's longed for resource rather than adding value to the diamond on the rough already at hand. Attend any planning workshop these days and if asked what is inhibiting the implementation of a proposal, almost invariably, the answer is "lack of funds." The seasoned facilitator sees through this escape from the demand of the required deed, and asks back: "What have we got and what can we do with it?" Volunteers to Obama's campaign are not prejudged on their qualifications, but are assessed on present skills and knowledge that can contribute to the campaign.

"Include" is allowing the embodiment of one's current passion. All of one's character traits and virtues, cultural gifts and personal aspirations are recognized, affirmed and celebrated. On this, I wax into poetry and song, and join the crowing cadres of the politics of hope.

Hope Is Everywhere

Hope is everywhere, I see it
We are all that we can be,
Come on and be it.
Life is given, you receive it.
Come and organize with me.

Open ourselves to the great celebration,
Offer our lives to its joy and pain.
Life bears the fruit of our own creation,
Everything we birth is love sustained.

Taking my cue from the golden cowrie,
All of nature's gifts there for you and me.
Taotao tasi we have chosen to be,
Taotao tano for humanity.

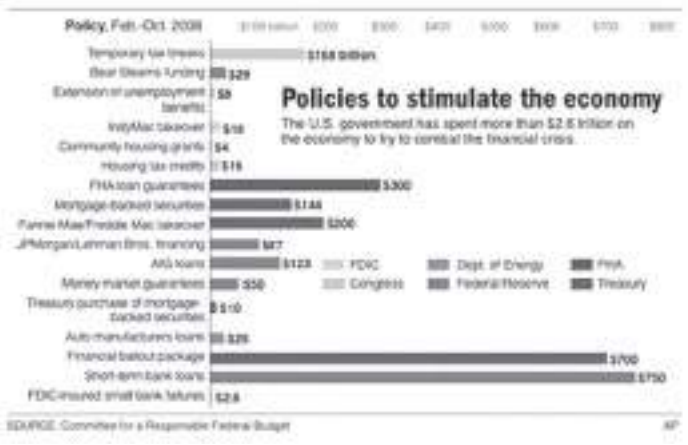
Circuit the globe like a winged stallion,
Race with the sun to the edge of night.
Wear our tools like a gold medallion,
Dance in the circle of its searing light.

I spent the other day setting my classroom so that the Commission on Election can set up their voting booths at my school. Tomorrow, I will teach my students my song.

Jaime Vergara
via e-mail

Business

Downbeat economic news expected on Election Day



WASHINGTON (AP)—After months rife with uncertainty and unprecedented events that have roiled and reshaped Wall Street, at least one major unknown should be cleared up Tuesday—who will be the country's next president.

Investors are likely to focused more on the presidential vote—and what the winner will do to deal with the nation's biggest financial crisis since the 1930s—than the latest batch of downbeat economic data due out Tuesday.

The election's outcome could significantly affect a range of industries, including oil and gas companies, automakers, pharmaceuticals, and financial services firms. Those sectors and others could find themselves subjected to new taxes or regulations next year—depending on who wins the White House.

The government, raising cash to pay for the array of financial rescue packages, said Monday it plans to borrow $550 billion in the last three months of this year. Treasury Department officials also projected the government would need to borrow $368 billion more in the first quarter of 2009, meaning the next president will confront an ocean of red ink.

The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Budget estimates all the government economic and rescue initiatives, starting with the $168 billion in stimulus checks issued earlier this year, total even more—an eye-popping $2.6 trillion.

An economic report Tuesday will only add fresh detail to the economy's bleak picture.

Wall Street economists expect the Commerce Department to report that September factory orders declined for the second straight month, as consumers and businesses cut spending in the wake of the economic slowdown.

Stocks end quiet session mixed ahead of election

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended the calmest session in recent memory with a narrowly mixed performance Monday as investors largely looked past a weak reading on the manufacturing sector and focused on the election.

Before finishing essentially flat, the Dow Jones industrials moved in a range of 155 points - well below October's average daily swing of 594. While trading was quiet, including the often-volatile final hour, the calm doesn't necessarily mean the market has overcome all its worries; analysts said investors weren't making big moves ahead of the voting.

Stocks showed little lasting impact from the Institute for Supply Management report that its measure of U.S. manufacturing dropped last month to the lowest level since September 1982 as credit conditions tightened and disruptions remained from Hurricane Ike. The trade group said its index of manufacturing activity fell to 38.9 from 43.5 in September, well below the 41.5 economists predicted, according to Thomson/IFR.

A separate report showed construction spending fell by a smaller-than-expected amount in September as a rebound in nonresidential activity helped offset further weakness in home building. The Commerce Department said construction spending fell by 0.3 percent in September, less than the 0.8 percent decline many economists expected.

Major auto companies reported weak sales for October on Monday as tight credit and nervousness about the economy kept consumers away from showrooms. General Motors Corp.'s U.S. sales plunged 45 percent, Ford Motor Co.'s sales fell 30 percent, while Toyota Motor Corp.'s dropped 23 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed's latest survey finds tighter loan standards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Banks tightened the spigots further on all sorts of lending, from home mortgages to credit cards and business loans, as the worst financial crisis in seven decades took a bigger toll on the economy. The Federal Reserve said Monday that its latest quarterly survey of bank lending practices found high numbers of banks reporting tighter credit standards across a broad range of loan products. Nearly 60 percent of banks responding to the survey said they had tightened lending standards on credit card debt. "We're into the eye of the storm here," said Brian Bethune, chief U.S. financial economist at IHS Global Insight in Lexington, Mass. The latest Fed survey was conducted in the first two weeks of October, too soon to reflect possible effects of the government's program to inject about $250 billion into U.S. banks by directly buying shares in them as part of a broader financial rescue effort. The government also plans to buy billions in distressed mortgage-related assets that banks hold.

Auto sales 'unsustainably weak'; GM's fall 45 pct.

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors' October U.S. sales plunged 45 percent, and Ford's and Chrysler's weren't far behind, as low consumer confidence and tight credit combined to bring the industry's sales to an "unsustainably weak level" that is the worst in 25 years. Automakers sold 838,156 vehicles in October, 32 percent fewer than the same month last year and the worst performance since January 1991, according to Autodata Corp. and Ward's AutoInfoBank. The seasonally adjusted annual sales rate of 10.6 million vehicles was the lowest since February 1983. "It's really an unsustainably weak level for all manufacturers," said Mike DiGiovanni, GM's executive director of global market and industry analysis. "This is clearly a severe, severe recession for the U.S. automotive industry and something we really can't sustain." The annual sales rate in October 2007 was 16.1 million. Chrysler's sales tumbled 35 percent and Ford's dropped 30 percent. Toyota's sales fell 23 percent despite its zero-percent financing offer, and Nissan and Honda posted 33 percent and 25 percent declines, respectively.

Nation

Obama carries lead over McCain into Tuesday's historic balloting

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., enters a rally the night before the presidential election, in Manassas, Va. on Monday, Nov. 3, 2008.

By STEVEN R. HURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama confidently sensed victory in his historic bid to become America's first black president as he wrapped up a marathon two-year campaign. Republican John McCain stubbornly promised an underdog upset in Tuesday's election.

AMERICA VOTES

Obama and McCain, separated by 25 years and a seemingly unbridgeable political gulf, had agreed on one thing during the longest presidential campaign in U.S. history—their promise to slam the door on the era of George W. Bush.

But they were deeply at odds over how to fix the nation's crumbling economy and end the 5 1/2-year war in Iraq, the issues that sent Bush's job approval plummeting to a record low at the end of his 8-year presidency.

Record numbers of Americans were expected at polling stations across the U.S. adding their ballots to 29 million citizens who had already voted in 30 states. The early vote tally suggested an advantage for Obama, with official statistics showing that Democrats voted in larger numbers than Republicans in North Carolina, Colorado, Florida and Iowa. All four states voted for Bush in 2004.

Obama received 15 votes to McCain's six in the first official results announced early Tuesday from the tiny hamlet of Dixville Notch in northern New Hampshire where all the voters traditionally gather after midnight to cast their ballots.

Sad news overshadowed the campaign Monday when Obama announced the death of his grandmother, whose personality and bearing shaped him deeply. Madelyn Payne Dunham was 86 when she died of cancer late Sunday in Hawaii.

"She's gone home," Obama said, tears running down both cheeks as tens of thousands of rowdy supporters at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte grew silent as he announced Dunham's death. The family said a private ceremony would be held later.

He explained to the North Carolina audience how Dunham inspired his campaign by her lifetime of hard work and sacrifice.

"In just one more day we have the opportunity to honor all those quiet heroes all across America," Obama said. "We can bring change to America to make sure their work and their sacrifice is honored. That's what we're fighting for."

Obama wrapped up his campaign by speaking to a crowd estimated at more than 70,000 people in Manassas, Virginia, near the site of the first major battle of the American Civil War that ended slavery, before heading home to Chicago to await the election returns.

McCain, a 72-year-old four-term Arizona senator, ended the contest Monday with a frantic and grueling dash through several traditionally Republican states still not securely in his camp or even leaning to Obama.

McCain stopped in Florida, Virginia, Indiana, New Mexico and Nevada. And he again passed through Pennsylvania, the only state that voted Democratic in 2004 where he still hoped for a win.

He was closing out the endurance test past midnight at a home-state rally in Prescott, Arizona, a state where Obama has been running television commercials in the campaign's final days after polls showed a tightening race.

Report clears Palin in Troopergate probe

AP

Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin greets supporters at a campaign stop at the airport in Colorado Springs, Colo., Monday, Nov. 3, 2008.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin violated no ethics laws when she fired her public safety commissioner, the state personnel board concluded in a report released Monday. "There is no probable cause to believe that the governor, or any other state official, violated the Alaska Executive Ethics Act in connection with these matters," the report says.

"Gov. Palin is pleased that the independent investigator for the Personnel Board has concluded that she acted properly in the reassignment of Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan," her attorney, Thomas Van Flein, said in a statement.

An earlier, separate investigation by the Legislature found that Palin had abused her office.

Monegan said he felt pressure from Palin, her husband and her staff to fire a state trooper who had gone through a nasty divorce from Palin's sister. Palin denied the claim, and said Monegan was fired last July because she wanted the department to head in a new direction.

Monegan told The Associated Press on Monday that he was "perplexed and disappointed" by the report. It was prepared by Timothy Petumenos, an independent investigator for the Alaska Personnel Board.

"It conflicts with the first investigation and then casts doubts on both of them. So, it doesn't really resolve anything," he said. "If it did, then I could walk away. It does seem to fly in the face if circumstantial evidence."

A separate legislative investigation recently concluded that Palin, the Republican vice presidential nominee, abused her office by allowing her husband and staffers to pressure Monegan to fire the trooper. However, it upheld the firing because Monegan was an at-will employee.

Alaska Personnel Board investigations are normally secret, but the three-member board decided to release this report, citing public interest in the matter given Palin's status as a candidate for national office. Election Day is Tuesday.

Democrats expected to deepen majority in Congress

NEW YORK (AP)—Democrats expected to deepen their majorities in both chambers of U.S. Congress, riding on the popularity of presidential candidate Barack Obama and unpopularity of President George W. Bush, a Republican.

Worried Republicans have taken to warning that the United States faces the possibility of strongly Democratic House and Senate memberships at the same time there's a Democratic president. They say that, unchecked, Democrats will go on a spending spree to expand social programs.

The Senate Republican campaign committee warned in an ad last week that liberals threatened total control of Washington.

"No checks. No balances ... a liberal agenda so scary its effects will be felt for a generation," the announcer says.

Congressional Republicans face the same obstacles as their underdog presidential candidate, John McCain: Opinion polls show Americans favor Democrats on the economy—the most important issue in the election.

"There's no question that the financial crisis has damaged the Republicans," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of a nonpartisan Washington political report. "Fairly or unfairly, they're getting more of the blame because they're seen as closer to Wall Street, so there's more animosity toward them."

The final pre-election poll by Gallup indicated that Americans generally favor Democrats in Congress by a 12 percentage point lead among likely voters, or 53 percent to 41 percent. The survey was conducted Oct. 31-Nov 2.

In the Senate, essentially the upper house of the legislature, 35 seats are in contention.

If the Democrats can pick up nine seats—a long shot that would require unexpected victories in the traditionally conservative South—it would strengthen their majority from a slim 51-49 to an nearly unbeatable 60-40.

Winning 60 seats or more in the 100-seat Senate would be a major boon to the Democrats because it would make it nearly impossible for the opposition Republicans to use a filibuster to kill legislation. A filibuster, a procedural way to extend debate indefinitely and keep a proposal from coming to a vote, can be cut off in the Senate with a supermajority of 60 votes.

The Democrats have especially targeted seats in Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, New Mexico and Virginia, where Republicans have chosen not to run again.

Some other Republican senators also are at risk, as the Democratic campaign outspends the Republican Party by more than 2-to-1.

Obama's grandmother dies just before Election Day

HONOLULU (AP)—Barack Obama's grandmother, whose personality and bearing shaped much of the life of the Democratic presidential contender, has died, Obama announced Monday, one day before the election. Madelyn Payne Dunham was 86.

Obama announced the news from the campaign trail in Charlotte, N.C. The joint statement with his sister Maya Soetoro-Ng said Dunham died late Sunday at her Honolulu apartment after a battle with cancer.

"She's gone home," Obama said as tens of thousands of rowdy supporters at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte grew silent in an evening drizzle.

"And she died peacefully in her sleep with my sister at her side. And so there is great joy as well as tears. I'm not going to talk about it too long because it is hard for me to talk about."

But he said he wanted people to know a little about her - that she lived through the Great Depression and World War II, working the latter on a bomber assembly line with a baby at home and a husband serving his country. He said she was humble and plain spoken, one of the "quiet heroes that we have all across America" working hard and hoping to see their children and grandchildren thrive.

Obama learned of Dunham's death Monday morning while he was campaigning in Jacksonville, Fla. The family said a private ceremony would be held later.

"So many of us were hoping and praying that his grandmother would have the opportunity to witness her grandson become our next president," said Hawaii state Rep. Marcus Oshiro, an Obama supporter. "What a bittersweet victory it will be for him."

Republican John McCain issued condolences. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to them as they remember and celebrate the life of someone who had such a profound impact in their lives," the statement by John and Cindy McCain said.

Last month, Obama took a break from campaigning and flew to Hawaii to be with Dunham as her health declined. He told CBS that he "got there too late" when his mother died of ovarian cancer in 1995 at age 53 and wanted to avoid that mistake again.

Election Guide: Keep early eye on Ga., Va., Ind.

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Election watchers won't have to wait for polls to close in the West to know how things are going. The first clues will come early, when voting ends in Georgia, Indiana and Virginia. If Democrat Barack Obama wins any of the three, he could be on his way to a big victory, maybe even a landslide.

If Republican John McCain sweeps them, he could be headed for a comeback. And if any of these three are too close to call quickly, that could indicate a long night ahead—and, perhaps, a squeaker of a result.

President Bush comfortably won the trio four years ago. But Obama has used his financial muscle and his draw as the youthful first black Democratic nominee to put them, and other historically reliable Republican states, into play.

Thus, the Democrat has several routes he can take to reach the 270 Electoral College votes needed for victory. McCain's strategy has no room for error; he must win nearly all the states that went to Bush in 2004, and possibly even one or two that voted for Democrat John Kerry that year.

Here's a timetable for armchair election watchers, all given in Eastern Standard Time:

AP

Dixville Notch residents wait for the stoke of midnight to be the first voters for the nation's presidential election in Dixville Notch, N.H. Tuesday Nov. 4, 2008.

■ 7 p.m.: The last polls close in Georgia, Indiana and Virginia, new battlegrounds this year offering a combined 39 votes, as well as in Kentucky and South Carolina, GOP country and 16 votes McCain should easily win, and Vermont, three, a sure thing for Obama.

■ 7:30 p.m.: Ohio and North Carolina, both are critical for McCain.

Ohio is a perennial swing state that no Republican has ever lost on his way to the presidency. Bush captured the state twice, and a loss would be difficult, if not impossible, for McCain to weather. He has few options to make up the 20 electoral votes elsewhere, while Obama probably could sustain a defeat here and look for wins in other GOP states where polls show him running stronger.

North Carolina, with 15 votes, is another GOP state that Obama targeted for a pickup from the start of the general election and one where he is working to get blacks and young adults to turn out for him in droves. He also made a late play for West Virginia's five votes. Both are less likely than others to flip; McCain losing either would be disastrous.

DNA links bones near plane crash site to Fossett

MADERA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities said Monday they have positively identified some of Steve Fossett's remains: two large bones found a half-mile from where the adventurer's plane crashed in California's Sierra Nevada.

Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said DNA tests conducted by the state Department of Justice positively identified the bones as the remains of the millionaire aviator who disappeared last year.

Anderson has declined to say what bones were found, saying he didn't want to cause the family further anguish.

Fossett's widow, Peggy Fossett, released a statement thanking authorities for their work.

"I am hopeful that the DNA identification puts a definitive end to all of the speculation surrounding Steve's death. This has been an incredibly difficult time for me, and I am thankful to everyone who helped bring closure to this tragedy," she said.

The bones were discovered last week, along with Fossett's tennis shoes and Illinois driver's license, which had animal bite marks on them.

AP

In this Feb. 28, 2005 photo, pilot Steve Fossett walks across a windy runway to the GlobalFlyer at the Salina Municipal Airport in Salina, Kan.

Fossett disappeared in September 2007 after taking off from a Nevada ranch owned by hotel magnate Barron Hilton for what was supposed to be a short pleasure flight. Law enforcement, fellow aviators and others launched a costly search that covered 20,000 square miles but turned up empty.

The wreckage of Fossett's plane was discovered last month after a hiker walking off trail in the Sierra Nevada near Mammoth Lakes stumbled across Fossett's pilot's license and a wad of weathered $100 bills. Authorities said Fossett likely died on impact.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

Long Beach, Calif., police baffled by 5 slayings

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—The crime scene, alongside a busy freeway off-ramp, was shielded from view by dense brush and tangled tree limbs.

The victims—five people shot to death over the weekend at a spot inhabited by the homeless—were known largely by their nicknames or just their first names.

And Southern California's first significant rain of the season may have washed away evidence.

Police in Long Beach are confronted with a baffling murder mystery.

"There is still a demon out there killing innocent people," said Don Morgan, 58, who was friends with the victims. "Satan was here that day."

Three men and two women were found slain Sunday in the seedy neighborhood of warehouses and apartment buildings near the intersection of two freeways. Some of the victims had been shot more than once.

An anonymous tipster called from a pay phone Sunday morning and directed police to the scene. But even the time of the attack is in dispute: Some neighbors reported hearing gunfire, yelling and a car speeding off just after midnight, while the coroner said the crime occurred sometime Saturday afternoon or evening.

Police said Monday that they had no eyewitnesses and no suspects and had yet to establish a motive for the slayings. But neighbors said people would often drop by to do drugs in the shadows underneath the freeway.

Investigators spent 12 hours collecting evidence, removing dozens of bags of trash and belongings from the spot in hopes of finding clues. And they issued a plea for the anonymous caller to come forward in the hope that he had more information.

Gang graffiti was sprayed along a freeway bridge near the crime scene, and a drainage channel appeared to be the only way in and out of the spot.

ACROSS THE NATION

Flag-waving gunman closes Calif. highway for hours

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—A man in a ski mask waved an American flag and a handgun on a freeway overpass for about three hours Monday morning, forcing a massive traffic shutdown before he surrendered. Police said crisis negotiators coaxed Edward Van Tassel, 28, to give up west of downtown Santa Barbara on Highway 101, a major route along the California coast. Traffic was jammed at least three miles in each direction. After dropping his weapon, Van Tassel asked for a Barack Obama campaign sign, which authorities delivered to him using a bomb squad robot, police said. The man attached the sign and the flag to the overpass and later walked backward to officers, who took him into custody. No shots were fired and police said the man's gun turned out to be unloaded.

Northwest chapter fighting Lung Association claims

SEATTLE (AP)—The Northwest chapter of the American Lung Association said Monday it would fight the national charity's attempt to dissolve it over a building sale and other disagreements. The American Lung Association sent the regional affiliate a cease-and-desist letter Friday ordering that it stop using the organization's name and turn over its assets because of alleged policy violations that include the chapter's sale of its $3.2 million Seattle headquarters to a newly founded lung organization for $10. The regional affiliate replied Monday that it can't be dissolved pending the outcome of legal claims in King County Superior Court, and that the ugly spat wasn't doing either side any favors. "This is the kind of a dispute between two charitable nonprofits that should have been settled in the family," Laird Harris, chairman-elect of the Northwest affiliate's board, said in a written statement. "(The American Lung Association's) aggressive and destructive decision to pursue the matter in court and in the media is damaging to our common mission of promoting lung health."

Soldier gets 10 years in slaying of fellow veteran

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—A soldier who pleaded guilty in the shooting death of a fellow Iraq veteran apologized to the victim's family in court Monday before being sentenced to 10 years in prison. Kenneth Eastridge, 24, pleaded guilty in July to being an accessory to murder in the death of Kevin Shields. Shields' family said he had just learned his wife was pregnant and had gone to a nightclub to celebrate when he was killed Dec. 1, his birthday. While there, he met up with Eastridge and Louis Bressler, two soldiers he knew from Iraq. Prosecutors said Bressler killed Shields after the two of them fought in a park and Eastridge later helped get rid of evidence. "I don't have the right to ask for forgiveness, but I just hope that everybody knows someday that I really am sorry," Eastridge said, visibly shaking as he read his statement.

Dad: Slain SC trick-or-treater saved him, siblings

SUMTER, S.C. (AP)—The parents of a 12-year-old shot to death while trick-or-treating said Monday they hope the man accused of killing him suffers for the rest of his life. T.J. Darrisaw died Halloween night after police say a convicted felon unleashed a barrage of bullets from inside a home, pumping at least 29 shots through the closed door and front of the house. The boy's father and brother also were wounded. "The injury to my arm is not as bad as the injury to my heart. I've lost a piece of my heart forever," father Freddie Grinnell Jr. said as he sat in his living room Monday. Police said the suspect, Quentin Patrick, 22, opened fire with an AK-47 because he thought he was being robbed. The family went to the home because the porch light was on, usually a signal that trick-or-treaters are welcome. Two of three siblings who went to the door with their father were wearing ghoulish masks. Their parents said the slain boy was determined to get candy first, so he was in front when the shots were fired. "T.J. saved us that night," Grinnell said. "He took most of the shots."

Asia

China envoy's historic visit to Taiwan met with protest

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Envoys from Taiwan and China approved a plan to hold periodic high-level talks Tuesday during a meeting on a trade agreement that could help ease the threat of war between the rivals.

The historic session came a day after Chen Yunlin—the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Taiwan in six decades—was greeted on arrival by anti-China protesters waving signs, calling him a communist bandit and rallying outside the legislature.

During Tuesday's two-hour meeting, Chen and chief Taiwanese negotiator Chiang Pin-kung agreed to hold high-level talks every six months alternatively in Taipei and Beijing, Taiwanese official Kao Koong-lian told reporters.

Kao said the next round will focus on financial cooperation. The two sides will aim to sign a memorandum of understanding allowing banks to set up branches on each side, he said.

The two envoys are expected to sign the trade pact later in the day, a deal would allow direct shipping links across the Taiwan Strait and would further expand the number of weekly passenger flights from 36 to 108. Cargo flights would be allowed for the first time, with 60 crossing the strait each month.

In a statement as the meeting opened, Chen said the session meant that "both sides have grasped a rare historic opportunity" and that future talks should deal with finance.

"We face a global economic slowdown and uncertainties have increased in the environment. The financial turmoil is more severe than the 1997 Asian financial crisis," he said. "The conditions pose severe challenges to both sides and highlight the importance of financial and economic cooperation."

The meeting drew applause from three chambers of commerce representing America, Japan and Europe. In a joint statement, the business groups said restrictions on flights and shipping have kept Taiwan from fully participating in the global and Asian economies.

Chen was mostly insulated Monday from the noisy crowds of Taiwan independence supporters, who were blocked or dragged away by security forces. About 5,000 police were guarding the capital, Taipei, during Chen's five-day trip.

Gunmen kidnap French aid worker in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen in a red Corolla cut off a van of French aid workers on Monday, kidnapping one and fatally shooting an Afghan who tried to thwart the abduction by grabbing an attacker's machine gun.

The kidnapping will add to the increasing anxiety felt by the international community in the Afghan capital, which has seen a rise in abductions and targeted shootings of foreigners in the last month.

Three assailants, two of them armed, tried to kidnap two French citizens riding in a small van, but after a scuffle the kidnappers grabbed one man, said Mohammad Daud Amin, a police commander

The kidnapping took place as two French aid workers were being driven from a residence rented by the aid group ARFANE—Amitie Franco-Afghane, or French-Afghan friendship—said Etienne Gille, AFRANE's president.

"The car was blocked by another car that was driving the wrong way," from which "an armed man emerged," Gille told The Associated Press. AFRANE's employee managed to escape, while another French aid worker was taken, he said.

The French Foreign Ministry said French officials in Paris and Kabul were working "to win the liberation of our compatriot as soon as possible."

An Afghan man—identified by the Interior Ministry as an employee of the country's intelligence service—saw the kidnapping and tried to intervene, witnesses said.

"He grabbed the machine gun of one of the kidnappers, who opened fire, burning his hand. After that, the kidnapper shot him three times in the chest," said Mohammad Shafi, who owns a shop near the kidnapping site.

Amin confirmed that one of the kidnappers opened fire and killed the intelligence official.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama says situation has worsened in Tibet

TOKYO (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Monday his efforts to secure Tibetan autonomy from China have failed to bring positive changes and he is unsure whether new talks between his envoys and Beijing over the fate of the Himalayan region will produce any breakthroughs. The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader has spoken in unusually blunt and pessimistic terms recently about prospects for his homeland. The 73-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate said Monday that the situation in Tibet was worsening and that criticism among Tibetans of his negotiating approach toward China was growing. The Dalai Lama has followed a "middle way" which rejects calls for outright independence but seeks greater autonomy to preserve Tibet's unique Buddhist culture. China, which has governed Tibet since Communist troops occupied it in the 1950s, has repeatedly accused the Dalai Lama of leading a campaign to split the Himalayan region from the rest of the country. The Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, has denied the allegations.

Floodwaters start to recede in Vietnam capital

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The death toll from nearly a week of flooding across northern and central Vietnam stood Monday at 54 and parts of the capital remained under water, but rains were easing and floodwaters receding in many areas. Hanoi alone recorded 18 deaths since heavy rains started lashing the city Friday, authorities said. Elsewhere, 34 deaths have been reported, authorities said. More rains were expected in the capital and some northern provinces Monday and Tuesday, but weather forecasters said they would be lighter than the downpours that soaked the capital over the weekend. That would provide welcome relief to residents of Hanoi, where many streets were under three feet (a meter) of water and scores of businesses remained shuttered.

Bangladesh withdraws troops from emergency duties

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's military-backed government says troops deployed to enforce a state of emergency will return to their barracks as the country prepares to hold national elections in December. Interim government adviser M.A. Matin says troops are being withdrawn from across the country. The troops were deployed on Jan. 11 last year when President Iajuddin Ahmed declared a state of emergency and postponed the voting scheduled for Jan. 22 that year following political unrest. National polls to restore democracy are to be held Dec. 18.

World

World watches US elections

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—When Sri Murtiningsi asked her third graders what they wanted to be when they grew up, the answers ranged from doctors to a pilot. One boy in the class raised his hand: Barack Obama said his dream was to be president of the United States.

Forty years later Murtiningsi—like the rest of the world—is watching closely as Americans prepare to head to the polls Tuesday.

"Barry was the only one who said he wanted to be president ... I hope his dream comes true," Murtiningsi said of Obama, who spent four years living in Indonesia as a child.

Many believe Obama's international experience would go a long way in helping repair damage caused by the unpopular U.S.-led war in Iraq, with recent opinion polls from more than 70 nations favoring him a resounding three-to-one over Republican John McCain.

Newspapers across the globe came out in support of the Democratic candidate Monday.

"Obama the best hope for U.S. revival," said an editorial in The Australian Financial Review. The Gulf News, an English-language paper in the United Arab Emirates, agreed, saying only he could "undo the great damage done by the Bush administration to America's image," especially in the Middle East. Obama "deserves to win," declared The Irish Times.

In Israel, though, where McCain is popular, the Maariv daily reported that officials are worried about an Obama presidency because of his willingness to hold diplomatic talks with Iran. Israel believes the international community must not embrace Iran's president, who has repeatedly called for Israel's destruction.

"Obama is very naive about how things work in the Middle East. He thinks that by being nice to Iran they will stop building nuclear weapons and stop threatening us. He doesn't understand that being nice doesn't work in our region," said Ariel Hajaj, a 36-year-old Jerusalem contractor. "McCain understands the way things work here better his approach is more suited the Middle East and he would be better for Israel."

AP

Indonesian activists hold placards with photos of U.S. Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama, left, and Republican candidate Sen. John McCain during a rally to support U.S. presidential elections in Solo, central Java, Indonesia, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

Hungry Congo refugees angry no food in UN convoy

KIBATI, Congo (AP)—Hungry refugees cheered when the first humanitarian convoy in a week arrived at their camp Monday, but the jubilation turned to anger when U.N. workers dumped only soap and plastic jerry cans instead of food and sped on past rebel lines.

U.N. officials conceded that hunger at the Kibati camp, where tens of thousands sheltered from fighting in eastern Congo, was dire but said the first priority was to resupply medical clinics looted by retreating government troops.

"Are we supposed to eat this?" demanded Boniface Ndayumujinya, an elderly man waving a bundle of spring onions brought by a friend. He said he was with eight family members who had not eaten in five days.

U.N. peacekeepers escorted the 12-vehicle convoy carrying medical supplies north from the provincial capital of Goma, past Kibati and on to Rutshuru, a village 55 miles north of Goma.

Both the Congolese army and rebel leader Laurent Nkunda assured the convoy's safe passage, said Gloria Fernandez, head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in eastern Congo.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gitmo jury: Life sentence for bin Laden videomaker

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A Guantanamo prisoner who made propaganda videos for Osama bin Laden and says he volunteered to be a Sept. 11 hijacker was convicted of terrorism charges and sentenced to life in prison Monday. A jury of nine U.S. military officers deliberated for just under an hour before condemning Ali Hamza al-Bahlul at Guantanamo's second war-crimes trial. Al-Bahlul was convicted of 35 counts of conspiracy, solicitation to commit murder and providing material support for terrorism. The jury, which announced its verdict earlier Monday, dismissed one count of conspiracy and one count of providing material support for terrorism. The 39-year-old Yemeni defiantly admitted joining al-Qaida, accused the U.S. of oppressing Muslims for 50 years and said "we will fight any government that governs America." He told jurors before his sentencing he volunteered to be the 20th hijacker in the Sept. 11 attacks but bin Laden told him his role was only to produce propaganda.

Never too late: Cops crack 25-year-old clock theft

JERUSALEM (AP)—It took time, but Israeli police detectives have cracked one of the country's greatest crimes—the legendary heist of a priceless clock collection from a Jerusalem museum a quarter century ago. The 1983 theft, the costliest in Israel's history, saw 106 timepieces worth millions of dollars disappear from the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art. Among them was a pocket watch made for French queen Marie Antoinette that museum officials value at more than $30 million. Although the stolen clocks had no connection to Islamic culture, they were displayed in the museum because they had originally belonged to the father of the museum's founder. The heist baffled police for more than two decades. But detectives now blame Naaman Diller—a notorious Israeli thief who fled to Europe and died in the United States in 2004. Investigators got their first break two years ago, when the museum informed them it paid some $40,000 to an anonymous American woman to buy back 40 of the items, including the Marie Antoinette timepiece made by famed watchmaker Abraham-Louis Breguet.

Campus Life

WINNER'S LIST

The following are the Grace Christian Academy's PGFC winners during the competition held Oct. 4, 2008, at the Kagman Elementary School.

K-2 Division

Readers Forum- Masters
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 1st place
Sherijean Dela Cruz-5th place

Readers Forum- Novice
Yukianna Dela Cruz-2nd place
Hannah Palacios-4th place

Impromptu Speaking
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 1st place
Riley Anne Buenaventura-2nd place
Clark Birmingham- 3rd place
Caryl Andrei Batenga- 4th place
Marcelo Masilungan Jr. -4th place

3-5 Division

Readers Forum- Masters
Aileen Camille Dimaano-5th place

Reader's Forum- Novice
Peter Luis Camacho- 1st place
Yujin Lee-1st place
Samuel Seo-2nd place
Maia Pangelinan-2nd place
Alyssa Jean Pantaleon-4th place
Mulan Ta- 4th place
Jasmine Gortayo-4th place
Peggy Pixley- 5th place
Kimiko Tenorio-5th place

Dramatic Interpretation
Rita Laxamana-4th place

Duo Interpretation
Yujin Lee and Aileen Dimaano – 1st place

Impromptu Speaking
Peter Luis Camacho- 1st place
Angela Cruz-2nd place
Camiile Masilungan-2nd place
Dianne Arnold-4th place
Catrina Jean Pantaleon-5th place

HONOR ROLL

The following is the Saipan Community School's Honor Roll list for the first quarter

"A" Honor Roll (3.50-3.99)

6th Grade
Alina Yoon
Jee Hyun Lee
Lydin Johnson

7th Grade
Eron Constante
Kanani Lee
Ericka Garcia

8th Grade
Jimin Ryu

"B" Honor Roll (3.00-3.49)

6th Grade
Han Mil Oh
Phillip Yoon
Pedro Tenorio
Steven Choi
Jehn Joyner
Seiya Eda
Yong Da Huang

7th Grade
Valentine Paik
Enoch Jr Lim
Isa Tudela
Magdiel Corpuz

8th Grade
Bryan Cho
Justin Ppn
Yeo Jin Lee
Francisco Camacho
Jonelie Torres
Hee Jin Cho
James Ko
Christian Tudela

Golden Harvest marks Cultural Day

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Golden Harvest International School pose in their costumes representing different cultures as part of celebrations of Cultural Day on Oct. 24.

Golden Harvest International School culminated on Oct. 24 their weeks-long classroom lessons on different cultures by the respective Social Studies teachers at all levels/grades.

The affair was highlighted with a parade where students and teachers wore costumes representing different cultures. The parents and teachers collaborated on putting up booths where they displayed their exhibits according to cultures of the country they were representing like utt, food, wares, tools, utensils and costumes with corresponding writeups of the exhibit in each area.

The program of activities for the day's affair included a flag ceremony, opening remarks of the PTSA president, Mario Corpus, a parade around the school's vicinity, students' breakfast, a visit to the exhibits in the different booths, movie viewing and lunch.

It was educational and fun day for both children and parents. ***(PR)***

The celebration would not be complete without the food representing different cultures.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School teachers also dress up for the occasion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KRISTI EATON

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita swears in new student representative, Francine Babauta, as her parents, Frank and Celine Babauta, watch. Francine, a junior at Saipan Southern High School, is the newest member of the Public School System's Board of Education. She was sworn in during last week's regularly scheduled meeting.

LILIA KING

CULTURAL DAY

Members of the *man'amko* visit the Garapan Head Start to teach the children different aspects of the local culture as part of celebrations for Culture Week. The children, ages 3 to 5, were taught how to make mwars and sing Chamorro and Carolinian song. The *man'amko* also took over instructing the children for about an hour, teaching them the alphabet and how to dance.

For Salas, safety and support are paramount

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Vicente Elementary principal Joaquina DLG Salas has been with the Public School System for nearly three decades. Here she explains what it's like to be a principal:

Question: What is your background?

Answer: I was a teacher aid and teacher. I've taught kindergarten through 7th grade. I've been with the Public School System for 27 years. I started as vice principal in 2005. I was a first grade teacher at the time. I became principal at the start of the 2007-2008 school year.

Salas

Q: What is a typical day like for you?

A: I always look forward to ensuring the children are safe. I'm trying to support teachers and ensuring they have the necessary instructional materials.

Q: What is the best thing about being a principal?

A: I think, for me, it's very challenging. I can't look at one focus. I have to make sure the school environment is safe. I want to make sure the instruction delivery is efficient, collaboration with parents is always there. That's very important.

Q: What is the hardest thing about being a principal?

A: Looking at the budget to make sure to prioritize things. Despite the fact it's a large school, last year we were given $46,000 with 745 students for operating, so I was being very careful how I spent it. I make sure to spend it on things I really need. We need to do more with less.

Q: What are your goals for the school year?

A: To continue with what we're been doing. Our data shows what curriculum is really helping. I want to see what areas we need to improve on. We need to plan as a grade level team. I hope to be able to improve on things we're not meeting.

Life & Style

This photo released by Sotheby's shows "Danseuse au repos", by Edgar Degas. The painting will go on sale at the annual art auctions for $40 million.

AP

Despite gloom, NYC fall art auction sets records

The Sotheby's auction house kicked off its annual art sale in the city this week against the backdrop of a gloomy economy that had some observers wondering whether there were any deep-pocketed buyers left to snap up paintings for tens of millions of dollars.

Well, there are. And they're breaking records.

Some of the most famous artworks of the past century were up for sale, including Edgar Degas' "Dancer in Repose" and Kazimir Malevich's "Suprematist Composition" (from 1916).

The Degas sold Monday night for just more than $37 million, an all-time high for the artist, whose previous best was $28 million for the same piece in 1999, a Sotheby's spokeswoman said. The work's presale estimate: $40 million.

The Malevich work sold Monday for just over $60 million, in line with its presale estimate. The sale price set a record for the artist and for any Russian artwork sold at auction, Sotheby's said. The previous record for Malevich was $17 million for another "Suprematist Composition" (from 1919-20) in 2000; the previous Russian record was $20.9 million for Wassily Kandinsky's "Fugue" in 1990.

And Edvard Munch's "Vampire," a brooding painting of a woman with cascading auburn hair, set a new record for the Norwegian artist, $38.2 million, Sotheby's said. The previous record was $30.8 million for "Girls on a Bridge," set last year.

The buyers' identities weren't immediately disclosed.

Among those who reportedly are selling pieces from their art collections are Kathy Fuld, the wife of Richard Fuld Jr., the former chief executive officer of Lehman Brothers who has been vilified for his company's role in the global financial meltdown. The high-end art market had stumbled in recent months as the hedge fund traders, financiers and Russian, European and Middle Eastern buyers who helped prop up the art market in recent years fell victims to the financial crisis.

Sagging prices at last month's London auctions suggested that the financial meltdown had finally ended the art market boom, which has seen a series of price records shattered over the last few years. Christie's and Sotheby's contemporary arts sales generated at least a third less money than predicted, and many items were unsold.

The New York sales are considered an important test of how price levels have changed since the summer and of how buyers will respond to the top-selling works, said Ian Peck, CEO of the art finance firm Art Capital Group.

The last such sales, in May, generated more than $500 million between the two houses.

Last week, Sotheby's withdrew Pablo Picasso's "Arlequin," one of the star lots at its Monday sale, for private reasons.

The move was "a sign that auction houses and buyers fear the risk of a downturn in prices is too great to ignore," Peck said.

That fear also was evident in an online auction last week when a 1717 Stradivari cello reached a record bid of $1.35 million but failed to reach its estimated value of $1.48 million to $1.97 million or its reserve, according to Tarisio, an auctioneer of fine stringed instruments and bows. The reserve is the lowest undisclosed price the consignor agrees to sell a work.

Sotheby's and Christie's said Monday they were cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the Impressionist and modern art sales this week and postwar and contemporary art sales next week.

"The result will speak to market expectations," said Guy Bennett, international co-head of Impressionist and modern art at Christie's. "It won't just be about one sale. The market is far deeper and broader than that. I think we found the right balance in terms of price points and also the quality of the things we're offering."

The Fulds reportedly are selling a group of abstract and minimalist drawings at Christie's on Nov. 12. The highlight of the 16 "Master Drawings of American Post War Art from a Private Collection" is a 1951 Willem de Kooning drawing of a nude called "Woman," estimated at $4 million.

Another important indicator in the art auction market is the number of guarantees by the auction houses. A guarantee is the undisclosed sum sellers are promised regardless of whether the work sells or not.

To offset risk that some works would not sell in the current financial climate, Sotheby's has cut guarantees from $458.5 million last year to $306.1 million this year.

Christie's has guaranteed six out of 85 works in its Impressionist and modern art sale on Wednesday, compared to the spring, when it guaranteed 16 out of 58 works from the same period.

"The things that we have chosen to guarantee this season we feel very comfortable with, we feel we made the right decision and we'll see how the market reacts," said Bennett.

To hedge against risk, Sotheby's had lined up a buyer for Malevich's "Suprematist Composition" who had placed an irrevocable bid on the abstract painting. If the painting went higher than the agreed-on price, which wasn't disclosed, then the bidder with the irrevocable bid would be compensated according to prior arrangements.

The painting was recently returned to the artist's descendants following a court battle and after residing for many years in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

Despite the troubles in the market, as recently as last month the glimmer of the art market's strength was evident when works by Damien Hirst sold for $200 million at Sotheby's in London.

Sotheby's CEO William Ruprecht, in an interview last month, said "there's no question" that some buyers are not willing to pay as much as before.

"But there's also no question that there's an awful lot of interest in important works of art," he said.

Peck said the "worst situation in the upcoming auctions would be for people to lose confidence in art as an asset or its perceived liquidity."

Among the other works coming up this week and next are "Untitled (Boxer)," a 1982 Jean-Michel Basquiat painting owned by Lars Ulrich of the heavy-metal band Metallica. Christie's expects it to fetch more than $12 million at the Nov. 12 sale but feels it could surpass the current Basquiat record, $14.6 million. ***(AP)***

Study: Women lead men in bacteria, hands down

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wash your hands, folks, especially you ladies. A new study found that women have a greater variety of bacteria on their hands than men do. And everybody has more types of bacteria than the researchers expected to find.

"One thing that really is astonishing is the variability between individuals, and also between hands on the same individual," said University of Colorado biochemistry assistant professor Rob Knight, a co-author of the paper.

"The sheer number of bacteria species detected on the hands of the study participants was a big surprise, and so was the greater diversity of bacteria we found on the hands of women," added lead researcher Noah Fierer, an assistant professor in Colorado's department of ecology and evolutionary biology.

The researchers aren't sure why women harbored a greater variety of bacteria than men, but Fierer suggested it may have to so with the acidity of the skin. Knight said men generally have more acidic skin than women.

Other possibilities are differences in sweat and oil gland production between men and women, the frequency of moisturizer or cosmetics applications, skin thickness or hormone production, he said.

Women also may have more bacteria living under the surface of the skin where they are not accessible to washing, Knight added.

Asked if guys should worry about holding hands with girls, Knight said: "I guess it depends on which girl."

He stressed that "the vast majority of the bacteria we have on our body are either harmless or beneficial ... the pathogens are a small minority."

The researchers took samples from the palms of 51 college students—that's 102 hands—and tested the samples using a new, highly detailed system for detecting bacteria DNA.

They identified 4,742 species of bacteria overall, only 5 of which were on every hand, they report on Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The average hand harbored 150 species of bacteria.

Not only did individuals have few types of bacteria in common, the left and right hands of the same individual shared only about 17 percent of the same bacteria types, the researchers found.

The differences between dominant and non-dominant hands were probably due to environmental conditions like oil production, salinity, moisture or variable environmental surfaces touched by either hand of an individual, Fierer said.

Knight said the researchers hope to repeat the experiment in other countries where different hands are assigned specific tasks.

While the researchers stressed the importance of regular hand washing, they also noted that washing did not eliminate bacteria.

"Either the bacterial colonies rapidly re-establish after hand washing, or washing (as practiced by the students included in this study) does not remove the majority of bacteria taxa found on the skin surface," the researchers said in their report.

While the tests could determine how many different types of bacteria were present, they could not count the total amount of bacteria on each hand.

The research was funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

It could be a big night for election viewing

AP

In this image released by CBS, CBS Senior Political Correspondent Jeff Greenfield, left, and CBS Chief Washington Correspondent Bob Schieffer discuss the upcoming election during a rehearsal, Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Election viewership on television and online could approach records Tuesday night - provided some suspense holds.

The presidential campaign has been a TV hit from crowded pre-primary debates through a Barack Obama infomercial last week that reached an "American Idol"-sized audience. It stands to reason that millions of Americans will tune in for the final results.

"All the indications are the audience should be the largest ever. But who knows?" said Paul Friedman, senior vice president of CBS News

If bellwether states that report early, such as Virginia, go Obama's way, then it might be known quickly that the Democrat will be tough to beat, Friedman said. That would drain the evening of drama and might cause viewers to drift away, he said.

It would also mark a sharp contrast from 2000 and 2004, when the extraordinarily tight races caused viewers to tune in as the night wore on, said Thomas Patterson, professor of government and the press at Harvard University's Shorenstein Center.

A record average of 40.9 million American households watched the Bush-Gore results in 2000, according to Nielsen Media Research. Nielsen could not immediately estimate how many people were watching in those homes. The 2004 Bush-Kerry race was seen in 37.9 million homes with an average of 55.1 million viewers, Nielsen said.

Nielsen estimated that 40 percent of the nation's TVs were tuned in to the 2000 results, the highest percentage since 1980. During the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon contest, fully two-thirds of the TV homes were watching election results on either ABC, CBS or NBC. With few channels, there was little else to watch.

Coverage will be carried live Tuesday on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, PBS and C-SPAN. Spanish-language networks will also have coverage, as well as networks targeted to African-Americans with the first black candidate with a real chance of being elected.

The top news Web site, Yahoo! News, anticipates a record-setting day. On Election Night in 2004, the site had 80 million page views; it expects that number to at least double this year, said site spokesman Jason Khoury. The number of people specifically checking out political news has skyrocketed as well. Visitors are spending an average of 10 minutes on its top political page, "a lifetime on the Web," Khoury said.

Yahoo! News is getting its political news primarily from The Associated Press, and will use the AP's call of individual states to update its electoral map, he said. Television networks are also relying on the AP for its vote returns, but the networks usually make their own projections on which candidates win.

CNN's Web site will allow users to customize results to follow individual races. MSNBC.com is offering interactive elements, too.

Several Web sites are streaming coverage: The Washington Post and Newsweek reporters will appear on washingtonpost.com, while Katie Couric will do a webcast after she gets off the air on CBS.

There's been an explosion of interest on politically oriented Web sites this fall. The Huffington Post, for example, jumped from 792,000 unique visitors in September 2007 to 4.5 million this September. Newsbusters.org went from 113,000 to 732,000, and Talkingpointsmemo.com from 32,000 to 458,000.

Interest in the campaign has been extraordinary, with three political speeches at the Republican and Democratic national convention each getting more than 40 million viewers. The vice presidential debate between Sarah Palin and Joe Biden had 70 million viewers, second only to the Carter-Reagan presidential debate as the most-watched political debate on American television, Nielsen said.

"As a television event, it's been off the charts," Patterson said.

Mourners attend private Hudson family funeral

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds of mourners attended a private funeral service for Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's slain mother, brother and nephew Monday at a South Side church.

A composed Hudson paused before the bodies of her relatives before giving her mother a final kiss, said attendees of the invitation-only service.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and the Rev. Jesse Jackson were among those who spoke at the three-hour service for Darnell Hudson Donerson, 57, Jason Hudson, 29, and Julian King, 7.

The three were found shot to death late last month, the adults in Donerson's home and Julian in a vehicle found several miles away. Julian is the son of Jennifer Hudson's older sister, Julia Hudson.

No one has been charged in the shootings, although authorities have called Julia Hudson's estranged husband, 27-year-old William Balfour, a "person of interest." He remains in custody on a parole violation.

During the service, "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino sang the gospel song "Your Grace and Mercy," and at one point left the stage to take Jennifer Hudson's hand and sing directly to her, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Small blue tickets that read "Hudson Family Funeral" were needed to enter the massive Apostolic Church of God, but that didn't deter crowds of onlookers who gathered outside.

Glover Lewis, who lives in the same South Side neighborhood as the Hudson family, attended the services and told the Tribune he was touched by the way Hudson bid her family members goodbye.

"Jennifer is the pillar," Lewis said. "It's obvious she's holding the family together."

Shenika Bowers, 35, of Chicago was one of several dozen people who stood outside the church in hopes of sharing sympathies with the singer-actress.

"She needs us right now," Bowers said of Hudson. "She needs support from everyone who she can get it from. I cannot imagine how she feels but I do feel for her."

Latosha Funches, 33, of Chicago, said she's been a Hudson fan since the singer was on "American Idol" and wanted to pass along her condolences.

"I have kids of my own too," said Funches, who pushed her 11-month-old son in a stroller. "I know how she feels. I just hope she can get through it. She looks like she's very strong."

Jennifer Hudson was a finalist in the 2004 season of "American Idol" and she won her Oscar in 2007 for her film debut, a supporting role in "Dreamgirls."

Monday's services followed a public memorial held Sunday at Pleasant Gift Memorial Baptist Church, where Hudson sang in her childhood.

AP

The casket carrying the body of Julian King is placed on a horse drawn wagon after funeral service for King, the nephew of Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, Monday, Nov. 3, 2008.

In Celebration of His New Life

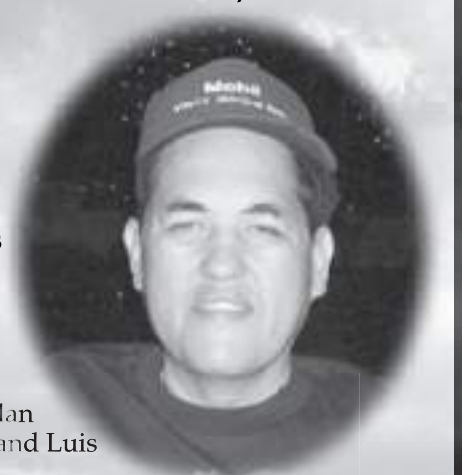
Joseph Tenorio Sablan
"Deda"

Affectionately known as "Teteng"

Born on March 16, 1956 was called to his eternal rest by our Dear Lord on Wednesday, October 29, 2008

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Manuel Blas and Cecilia Tenorio Sablan
Sister and Brothers: Beatrice, Efrain, Ricardo, and Luis



His memory will live in the hearts of his:

Sisters/Brother/Families:

Frances S. and Nick S. Ramon and family
Josephine T. Sablan and family
Magdalena S. and Bruce Barker and family
Rita S. and Jose S. Dela Cruz and family
John T. and Gloria G. Sablan and family
Larissa S. and Joe A. Flores and family

Caregiver: **Arlene Manalo**

"Teteng" is also survived by his uncle Antonio C. Tenorio and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Daily mass is offered at 6:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Church.

On Thursday, November 6, 2008, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:00 a.m. to the San Antonio Church followed by the Responso & Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by the burial at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated,

From the Family

Jury: Keanu Reeves doesn't owe paparazzo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a most excellent outcome for Keanu Reeves: The "Matrix" actor doesn't owe a dime to the paparazzo who sued him.

After deliberating for less than three hours, jurors unanimously rejected the civil lawsuit Monday, ruling that Reeves is not responsible for the photographer's alleged injuries. Alison Silva had asked the jury to award him $711,974, which includes medical bills, lost wages and punitive damages.

"I respect the jury's decision," Silva told reporters outside the Los Angeles County Superior Court after the verdict was read. "That's what we were here for since the beginning."

Silva said he would continue to work as a paparazzo despite the jury's decision. Would he ever attempt to snap Reeves' photo again?

"Why not? It's business," he responded. "I wish Keanu is happy in his life. I have nothing against Keanu."

Silva claimed that the star of "The Matrix," "Speed" and "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" struck him with his Porsche in March 2007, causing him to fall and injure his left wrist.

Jurors heard how Silva gave contradictory statements about what happened and even saw a video of the celeb shooter using his supposedly damaged hand to scale down a chain link fence after getting video of Britney Spears.

"We obviously felt from day one that Mr. Reeves was not negligent," said Reeves' attorney, Alfred Gerisch, after the verdict. "It's unfortunate that this lawsuit was brought and it's unfortunate that we had to go this far—a lot of time, a lot of effort and obviously a lot of money."

The actor waited for the verdict outside the courthouse's cafeteria on the roof but declined to comment after the decision.

Attorneys issued closing arguments Friday, the jury deliberated about five minutes before leaving for the weekend, and resumed their work Monday morning. All 12 decided to reject the case; civil trials in California only require nine jurors to be in agreement.

The panel of jurors—six men and six women—was a decidedly Hollywood bunch. One of the jurors said he is an animator for "The Simpsons," while another helps coordinate movie shoots in public parks. A pair of actresses and a former voice-over artist were eliminated from the jury pool.

Vampire pals hang out in the 'Twilight'

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Robert Pattinson, center, performs alongside Nikki Reed and Kellan Lutz as members of a vampire clan in "Twilight," the big-screen adaptation of the first of Stephenie Meyer's young adult novels.

By GINA MCINTYRE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Pattinson has all the traits of a Hollywood heartthrob—photogenic features, a lovely British accent and a starring role as the brooding but devastatingly handsome good guy vampire Edward Cullen in "Twilight," the big-screen adaptation of the first installment in author Stephenie Meyer's wildly successful young-adult book series due in theaters Nov. 21.

The only thing that doesn't quite fit? Pattinson is one seriously self-deprecating guy.

"I can't watch myself on screen," said the 22-year-old actor, who previously appeared as Cedric Diggory in the "Harry Potter" films. "When my parents say, 'Oh, did you see this photo?' I immediately start going, 'Don't tell me about photos!' I haven't watched anything since the premiere of 'Harry Potter.' And that's because I couldn't find a way out.

"It would have looked a bit bad for me to walk out," he conceded with a laugh.

In the coming months, Pattinson and the rest of the film's ensemble cast are probably going to have to get a lot more comfortable with fame. "Twilight," which details the romance between Edward and 17-year-old Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), has been compared to "Romeo and Juliet," with its themes of forbidden love. But it's also been described as the heir to J.K. Rowling's teen wizard saga—given its blockbuster literary pedigree and popularity among the under-18 set. For months, interest in the film has been building: There's even a clock counting down the minutes to its premiere at twilighthemovie.com.

It's a strange thing to realize that you're at the heart of a full-blown pop culture phenomenon, but on an unseasonable October afternoon, with the temperature hovering near 100 degrees, the pressure didn't seem to be adversely affecting any of the actors. Gathered around a conference table in a Los Angeles office building, Pattinson and costars Kellan Lutz and Nikki Reed, who portray two other members of the Cullen clan, were playing it remarkably cool.

"I think it was toward the end of shooting when it really dawned on me," said Reed, who plays the supremely confident Rosalie, love interest to Lutz's Emmett. "There were fans that were finding out where the locations were, and that's when it really hit me. People saying, 'Oh, it's going to be the next "Harry Potter"!' That's a big mountain in front of you. There's a lot of hype around this."

During the conversation, the trio easily dissolved into laughter, teasing one another and displaying the same generally convivial vibe that took root during the weeks they spent together on set in the remote Pacific Northwest with director Catherine Hardwicke.

"It's weird having such a big cast where everyone's pretty much the same age," Pattinson said. "A lot of the time the locations were really isolated, so we were the only people we could hang out with."

Every modern take on the vampire legend sets up new rules that govern the creatures, and "Twilight" is no exception. The Cullens refuse to feed on humans, hunting animals instead, and they are not harmed by the sun, although their luminous white skin does glitter in direct light. It's their self-imposed dietary restrictions and desire to live among people that ultimately helps Bella accept Edward's true nature, but it also puts the vampires in direct conflict with others of their kind, who are less, well, civilized.

For the movie's action sequences, the actors experimented with stunts and wire work, which Pattinson admits did not play to his strengths. "I got injured on the first shot of the first day," he said. "I wasn't even doing a stunt. I was just trying to pick up Kristen and I almost tore my hamstring because I hadn't been doing enough squats. It was very embarrassing."

Added Lutz: "When we did have those hard days, we would go back to Rob's room. He had a couple of guitars in there and a lot of great music. It was really fun being able to relax and have the cast come together, having that time just to bond and not really be actors but friends."

Even though the film's release is several weeks away, Summit Entertainment already has announced plans to move ahead with adaptations of the other books in the series—depending, of course, on how well "Twilight" fares at the box office.

Pattinson, Lutz, 23, and Reed, 20, said they are thrilled about the prospects for a Cullen family reunion. After all, playing a vampire does offer an actor certain advantages.

"It's quite cool having this sort of secret element," Pattinson offered.

"You're doing a scene with someone and you can play something however you want and deliver it in a completely random way so even the other actor doesn't know what you're doing.

"And you can just say, 'Well, it's because I'm a vampire, isn't it?' "

BEST SELLERS

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Nonfiction

1. ***The Snowball***, by Alice Schroeder (Bantam: $35) A memoir recounting the life of investor Warren Buffett.
2. ***Hot, Flat, and Crowded***, by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: $27.95) Solutions to overpopulation and global warming.
3. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Random House: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
4. ***The Wordy Shipmates***, by Sarah Vowell (Riverhead: $25.95) A profile of the Puritans who fought the original battle between church and state.
5. ***Pieces of My Heart***, by Robert J. Wagner and Scott Eyman (HarperEntertainment: $25.95) A memoir of the actor's five decades in show business.
6. ***A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity***, by Bill O'Reilly (Broadway: $26) A memoir of the Fox News commentator.
7. ***Dewey***, by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter (Grand Central: $19.99) The influence a cat named Dewey Readmore Books had on an Iowa library and its patrons.
8. ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.
9. ***The Limits of Power***, by Andrew Bacevich (Metropolitan: $24) How a return to traditional principles will solve America's economic, military and political troubles.
10. ***Breakthrough***, by Suzanne Somers (Crown: $25.95) Advice on healthy living and the newest treatments for longevity.

Fiction

1. ***A Most Wanted Man***, by John le Carre (Scribner: $28) Turkish Muslims in Germany take in a homeless man, setting off a chain of events involving intelligence agencies from three countries.
2. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle a la Hamlet.
3. ***One Fifth Avenue***, by Candace Bushnell (Voice: $25.95) The lives of New York's rich and famous come together under the roof of a landmark building.
4. ***Brisingr***, by Christopher Paolini (Knopf: $27.50) Eragon, along with his dragon Saphira, must unite the rebel forces to defeat King Galbatorix.
5. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.
6. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.
7. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.
8. ***The Lucky One***, by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central: $24.99) An ex-Marine searches for an unknown woman in a photograph.
9. ***The Other Queen***, by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone: $25.95) A historical tale of the years in captivity of Mary, Queen of Scots.
10. ***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo***, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf: $24.95) A journalist explores the cold-case disappearance of a Swedish teen heiress.

Jane Fonda returns to B'way in '33 Variations'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jane Fonda, activist, author and exercise guru, will be back on Broadway in 2009 after an absence of more than four decades.

The Academy Award-winning actress will star in "33 Variations," a play by Moises Kaufman about a present-day musicologist (played by Fonda) and her study of Beethoven's fascination with a particular piece of music. Kaufman will also direct. The production will open this winter at a theater and date to be determined, producer David Binder announced Monday.

"I am very excited about being in Moises' new play," Fonda said in a statement. "I can't wait to get back on stage with him in this role that I understand so well. It's been 40-some years."

Fonda won her Oscars for "Klute" and "Coming Home." She has also appeared in such films as "On Golden Pond," "Nine to Five," "Julia," "Fun With Dick and Jane," "Barbarella," "Barefoot in the Park," "Cat Ballou" and "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"

Fonda, who lives in Atlanta, in active in many social causes, particularly through the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, an organization she founded in 1995.

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2008 file photo, actress Jane Fonda attends the Metropolitan Opera season opening night gala performance at Lincoln Center in New York.

She produced nearly two dozen exercise videos and her autobiography, "My Life So Far," was a best seller.

Kaufman, founder of Tectonic Theater Project, is best known for his plays "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" and "The Laramie Project," which he wrote with members of Tectonic about the murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man who was beaten and tied to a fence in Wyoming a decade ago. He also directed the Tony-winning play "I Am My Own Wife."

"33 Variations" had its world premiere at Arena Stage in Washington in 2007 and was done earlier this year at the La Jolla Playhouse in California.

"For Tectonic Theater Project, this piece is the culmination of an investigation into the creative life of Beethoven, and Ms. Fonda is the perfect person to lead us on that journey," Kaufman said.

Fonda made her Broadway debut in 1960 in a short-lived play called "There Was a Little Girl." Later that year, she appeared in Arthur Laurents' comedy "Invitation to a March," which had incidental music by Stephen Sondheim. Fonda also starred on Broadway in the comedy "The Fun Couple" (1962), which closed after three performances, and a well-received revival of Eugene O'Neill's "Strange Interlude" in 1963.

Edwards discusses his cameo as Dr. Greene on 'ER'

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Edwards says it's easy being Greene.

The actor, who left "ER" six years ago, said in a telephone news conference Monday that he had no problem getting back into the swing of things while reprising his role as Dr. Mark Greene for the Nov. 13 episode of the NBC medical drama.

Said Edwards: "It was really like going back to high school, in the best way. It was like going back to your favorite class and having your favorite teacher. ... It took about a half an hour - and after about a half an hour, I really felt like I'd never left."

Dr. Greene, who died of a brain tumor at the end of the 2002 season, appears in flashback scenes with former County General Drs. Kerry Weaver and Robert Romano (portrayed by Laura Innes and Paul McCrane, respectively).

He also has an encounter with series newcomer Dr. Cate Banfield (Angela Bassett), an attending physician at the hospital, after she brings in her sick son. The flashbacks are interwoven with a present-day story line that shows Banfield helping in the rescue of a young girl who falls into a lake.

Discussing the character's passion for medicine, Edwards said: "When you get on an airplane, you hope that the pilot really loves flying—I think that's what Greene had. You do want to go to a hospital and have a good doctor who loves being a doctor there."

Edwards' appearance comes in the 15th and final season of "ER," which debuted in 1994 and launched the careers of George Clooney, who left the show in 1999, and others in the ensemble cast.

Like many "ER" fans, Edwards hopes for the return of Clooney's character, Dr. Doug Ross. He has said Clooney would be a fool not to make a cameo.

Said Edwards: "I would never judge anybody else. All I can do is share that I had a good experience, and I hope that whoever gets asked and has the opportunity does do it."

Belgian artist's work causes a stink—again

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP)—One man's stink is another man's major art project. A piece by Belgian conceptual artist Jan Fabre at the Antwerp's MuHKA contemporary art museum is challenging the nose as well as the eyes.

The installation "Spring is on its way" consists of onions and potatoes hung from the ceiling in condoms. And the vegetables are, well, spoiling.

"Like many of his works, it is about transformation and metamorphosis," MuHKA's Kathleen Weyts said of Fabre, who had a solo show at the Paris Louvre earlier this year.

Weyts claimed that one museum worker complained. Local media reported that plenty of visitors and museum guards were protesting. By Monday, the smelly, rotting onions and potatoes were the talk of the town.

"Protest Against Fabre's Stink Art," headlined Het Nieuwsblad newspaper.

"Fabre's stinking work raises tempers," the VRT television network said on its web site.

Some shoots have broken through the condoms and other condoms have crashed to the ground from the weight of the vegetables.

"It smells of onions, but I would not call it a stink," MuHKA director Bart De Baere told VRT.

Ex-UCLA Medical Center employee pleads not guilty in celebrity records snooping

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former UCLA Medical Center employee has pleaded not guilty to charges that she sold information from actress Farrah Fawcett's medical records to a celebrity gossip tabloid.

U.S. attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek says Lawanda Jackson entered the plea at her arraignment Monday in U.S. District Court.

Jackson is charged with illegally accessing Fawcett's medical file and selling information about the actress' cancer treatment for $4,600 to the National Enquirer.

A state investigation found last month that UCLA hospital workers had inappropriately accessed records of 1,041 patients, including celebrities such as Britney Spears, since 2003.

Surfers accused of pap attack plead not guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two surfers have pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor battery charges for allegedly throwing a photographer into the water as he tried to shoot pictures of Matthew McConaughey on the waves.

The surfers - Skylar Peak and Philip Hildebrand - are accused of confronting several paparazzi who showed up June 21 on a Malibu beach to take pictures and film the "Fool's Gold" and "Failure to Launch" star.

One of the photographers, Richid Altmbareckouhammou, told authorities he was attacked and his camera was thrown in the ocean by the surfers after they demanded he put his camera away.

A pretrial hearing was set for Jan. 14.

McConaughey

Couple can't see solution to vexing vision problem

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single 59-year-old man who is dating an attractive 40-year-old woman. I wear glasses, and she wears contact lenses, which she takes out before we go to bed at night. Of course, I remove my glasses.

The problem is, when we become intimate, we can barely see each other—even with the lights on. We want to know what each other looks like when we're making love. Any suggestions?

EYES WIDE OPEN IN ROGERS, ARK.

DEAR EYES WIDE OPEN: I am not a vision expert, and this is something you should discuss with your eye-care professional. However, because you are both blind as bats without corrective lenses, perhaps it's time you considered the Braille method.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 37 years recently purchased our tombstones and had them installed on our cemetery plots. I didn't even know about this latest purchase—only the plots. He even had both our names and birthdates put on the tombstones. I was shocked to receive photos of them from the funeral home.

I had previously mentioned to him that I'm not sure if I want to be buried in Wisconsin and to please not put my name on the stone now. I always thought married couples should discuss such details before making a decision.

I am having a really hard time with this. He has been secretive and domineering. I feel betrayed and no longer feel I can trust him. Am I wrong on this?

DESPERATE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DESPERATE: If your husband has always been secretive and domineering, then this is the man you married, and this latest episode is just more of the same. If, however, he has recently BECOME secretive and domineering, it is important for you to discuss this with your family doctor because your husband may need to be medically and neurologically evaluated.

Women usually outlive men, so your husband may have jumped the gun in making this decision "for" you. Look at the bright side. If he predeceases you, you can sell the second cemetery plot, take a lovely cruise and have the stone turned into a planter.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Madge," lives 1,400 miles away, and my husband and I rarely see her. Because of issues in the past, I do not care for her company—and that's putting it mildly.

Yesterday, Madge called my husband and invited herself and my sister-in-law to Thanksgiving dinner with MY family! Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I look forward to spending the time with my family, especially those I only get to see a few times a year. How can I tell Madge that they can't come without making them angry?

T-DAY WITH MY FAMILY

DEAR T-DAY: Obviously, you can't—and neither could your husband. You can, however, control to some extent how much contact you have with her if you have assigned seating.

Put Madge and your sister-in-law at the other end of the table on either side of your husband. Keep a smile on your face and stay busy with all the "duties" a hostess must perform. You'll get through it. And next year, tell your husband to check with you before allowing his mother to invite herself.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

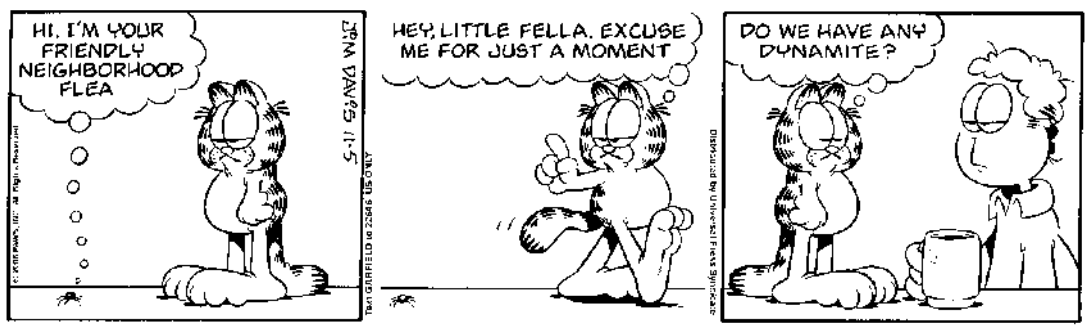
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK WHAT MOM MADE ME! A SUPER HERO OUTFIT!
DON'T I LOOK COOL? NOW I CAN FIGHT CRIME WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING MY TRUE IDENTITY!
YEP, I'M ALL SET NOW!
...SO! SEEN ANY CRIMES?
WHY DO YOU CARE THAT NOBODY KNOWS YOUR IDENTITY?

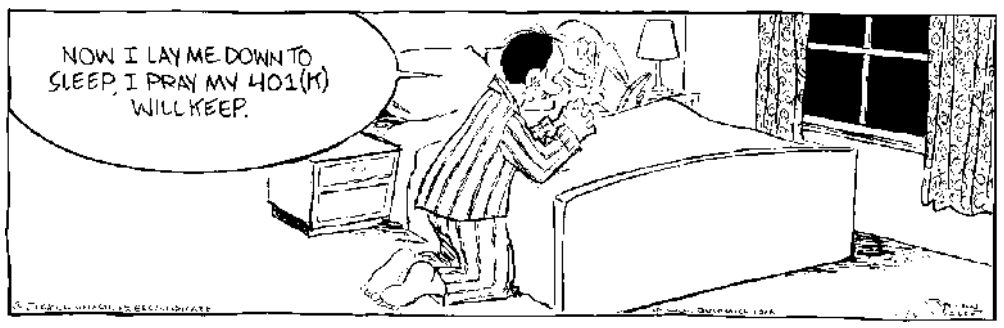
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



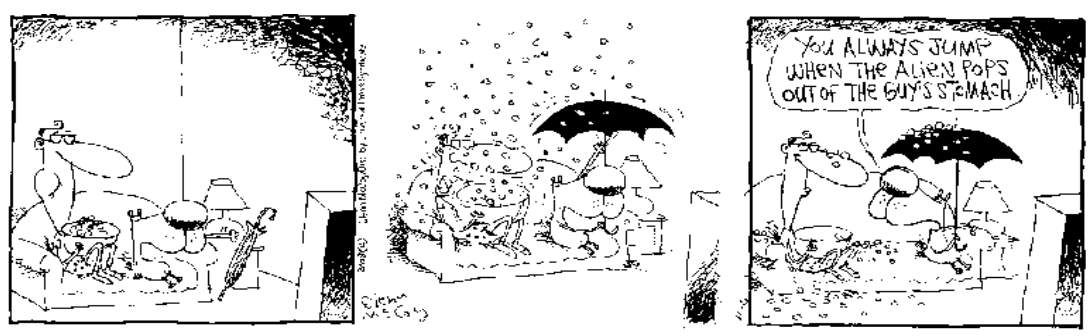
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

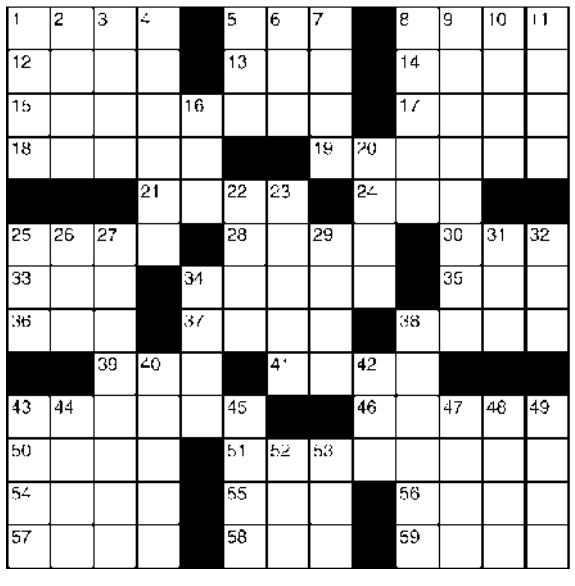
ACROSS
1 Lysol target
5 Rage
8 Dreary
12 Finished
13 Rotation duration
14 Mature
15 Steer
17 Small b t
18 Martini garnish
19 Perceive intuitively
21 Grounded flock
24 Cribbage scorer
25 Related
28 Droops
30 Tray contents
33 Neither partner
34 Dessert there's "always room for"
35 Ball prop
36 Melody
37 Gaelic
38 Smile broadly
39 Hockey surface
41 Initial chip
43 "African Queen" star
46 Nixon's veep
50 Verve
51 Bind legally
54 Baptism, e.g.
55 Hallowe'en call
56 Hebrew month
57 Leaves
58 Deviate off course
59 Assessment

DOWN
1 "Kissing disease"
2 Ellipse
3 Jeans-maker Strauss
4 Compelled
5 Mrs. McKinley
6 Snitch
7 Oglee
8 Somber
9 Battle in court
10 "Once — a time ..."
11 Fast-spreading concept
16 Jewel
20 Facto preceder
22 Addict
23 Tortilla topping
25 Literary collection
26 Japanese pond carp
27 Water
29 Secluded valley
31 Vast expanse
32 Height of fashion
34 Scoff (at)
38 Panhandler
40 Some Christmas candy
42 Skater Babilonia
43 Titanic's downfall
44 Hodge-podge
45 Sir — Belch, of "Twelfth Night"
47 Zilch, south of the border
48 Coup d'
49 Existed
52 Feathery neckwear
53 Depressed

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	A	M	P	■	J	O	B	■	H	A	G	S
O	B	O	E	■	A	N	I	■	A	R	E	A
C	A	B	E	R	N	E	I	■	R	A	N	I
■	■	■	W	O	E	■	B	I	R	F	F	D
D	A	V	E	N	■	F	Y	P	O	■	■	■
I	S	E	E	■	C	A	B	A	R	E	T	S
S	I	R	■	B	R	U	I	N	■	P	I	P
C	A	B	A	L	I	S	T	■	S	■	L	G
■	■	■	B	I	T	F	■	F	A	C	F	T
S	C	A	M	P	I	■	C	A	F	■	■	■
T	O	G	A	■	C	A	B	B	A	G	F	S
E	K	E	D	■	A	L	I	■	R	■	L	L
M	E	S	A	■	L	E	T	■	I	N	K	Y

Yesterday's answer 11-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tatum O'Neal, 45; Bryan Adams, 49; Peter Noone, 61; Art Garfunkel, 67

Happy Birthday: You will have many choices this year but most will be difficult and emotional. There will be no turning back once you've decided. Question anyone trying to give you an ultimatum. Consider long-term results and the nature of the people you are dealing with. Your numbers are 1, 3, 17, 25, 32, 40, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may want to lend a helping hand but chances are very good you'll be taken advantage of. Someone will offer friendship or a partnership only to see what your answer might be. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work hard and don't let your personal life or relationships hinder the progress or quality. You can't trust someone who is trying to get something from you. Don't give in to pushiness or demands. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can use your charm and emotional tactics to get your way but at some point a colleague, friend or peer will question what you are doing. Be truthful and keep your promises and you will surprise some of your less-admiring onlookers. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your money in your pocket. Your witty conversation coupled with affection will be enough to win the admiration and love of the right person. Keep your business and your personal lives separate. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful how you handle the people closest to you. Love is looking pretty hot but a change of heart may occur if you don't come through with a promise you made in the heat of the moment. Avoid personal issues and concentrate on a professional opportunity. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A challenge will prove how strong a contender you can be. Don't let a misunderstanding lead to irreversible changes. An opportunity will develop if you join a group that offers training to improve your skills. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop procrastinating and make the calls that will lead to a better position suited to your skills. An emotional matter can be solved. Children will speak the truth regarding your appearance and your current situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make some quick moves should a problem arise at home or with someone you have been dependent on. Security is the key to your future. An unusual source of information will help you realign your next move. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be called upon to do something that isn't your cup of tea but, in doing so, you will strengthen your position. A partnership will be under pressure and demands are likely to be enforced if you don't make a move. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You won't be thinking straight when it comes to vocational decisions. Take a wait-and-see position. A chance to make a financial move that will stabilize your position must be put into play. Trust your own judgment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You've got things right in your own mind so don't let someone confuse you. Focus on the things that make you happy rather than trying to please someone who is continually picking on you. Emotional confusion will only cause you to spin your wheels. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't lose sight of your financial goals or give into a fast-talking friend who wants to borrow or get you involved in a scheme. Love may be on the line if you aren't willing to compromise. A secret that will change the circumstances you face must be revealed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, inventive and a little ahead of your time. You are sensitive and loving—a thinker and a strategist.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1	9				
			7		6			
6	7	9	3			2		
7							4	
8				1				9
4							6	
3	6	1	2			7		
			6		8			
			4	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	9	6	4	5	3	1	7
7	6	1	8	9	3	5	2	4
3	4	5	1	7	2	8	9	6
5	8	4	7	6	9	1	3	2
2	9	7	5	3	1	4	6	8
1	3	6	2	8	4	7	5	9
6	7	3	9	5	8	2	4	1
9	5	2	4	1	7	6	8	3
4	1	8	3	2	6	9	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID DUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BANKING IN SINGAPORE **Solution: 7 letters**

H	C	E	M	P	R	E	S	S	T	A	T	L	E	E
O	U	I	N	A	H	S	I	B	G	R	O	W	I	H
U	M	N	F	(A)	N	S	E	N	T	O	S	A	Y	E
G	T	A	I	I	(E)	A	S	N	I	O	C	E	R	G
A	Y	E	R	T	C	(R)	G	P	N	I	N	Z	S	N
N	S	A	K	T	E	A	(A)	E	N	O	O	T	E	A
G	O	I	H	R	U	D	P	U	M	E	T	I	D	H
L	L	T	A	T	A	O	M	E	S	A	E	R	R	C
A	A	E	N	N	A	M	R	P	Y	F	S	I	U	X
U	N	L	G	E	O	C	L	L	E	A	D	S	O	E
P	O	O	F	C	H	A	S	N	A	O	L	T	L	N
A	S	K	E	A	N	S	G	N	I	K	N	A	B	I
S	R	L	N	A	N	Y	A	N	G	L	W	N	M	L
A	E	T	D	E	S	Y	A	W	E	S	U	A	C	N
T	P	F	R	O	N	D	S	A	F	S	R	F	V	O

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Area, Asian, Banking, Bishan, Bonds, Cathay, Causeway, Coins, Empress Esplanade, Exchange, Growth, Hougang, Istana, Laubasat, Laws, Lead, Loans, Lourdes, Malay, Manage Market, Merchant, Money, Nanyang, Notes, Online, Open Outram, Overseas, Pacific, Padang, Persona , Ritz, Sentosa, Sherton, Tatlee, Telecommunications, Telok, United

Yesterday's Answer: Voting

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth

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Find today's solution in this section

Edward Litulumar
P.O. Box 505251
Saipan, MP 96950

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Edward Litulumar Petitioner, vs. Zhao Xumei Respondent	)))))	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 07-0690 **SUMMONS**

To: Zhao Xumei

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver a copy of your answer to Edward Litulumar by service in person, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2007.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Saipan Trib
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principa
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAC
There is still hope for nonimm
joins

235- NEWS

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Nuggets, Pistons swap Iverson for Billups

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons worked the phones last summer, trying to trade for a superstar to shake up their roster.

They ended up standing pat because a deal didn't make sense.

Two games into the season, Allen Iverson was the answer to their hopes in a blockbuster that generated rare buzz for the NBA in November.

Detroit acquired the former NBA MVP on Monday for All-Star point guard and former finals MVP Chauncey Billups, top reserve Antonio McDyess and project Cheikh Samb.

"We just felt it was the right time to change our team," Pistons president of basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Associated Press. "Iverson gives us a dimension that we haven't had here and we really think it's going to help us."

The Pistons have reached six straight Eastern Conference finals—the longest such streak since the Los Angeles Lakers' dominant run in the 1980s—and won the 2004 title without a player expected to be in the Hall of Fame.

Dumars said the Nuggets first contacted him Thursday with a proposal that included Iverson. Dumars, who had become concerned the Pistons were set in their ways, struck a deal at 1:45 Monday morning.

"It gives us a different way to attack people," Dumars said. "We have been extremely successful for a long time. But I also think what comes with that is a little bit of predictability."

Iverson may not be around for long—making $20.8 million in the final season of his contract—but The Answer might be what Detroit needs to return to the NBA finals for the first time since 2005.

The Pistons are hoping Iverson will play Wednesday at Toronto and barring injury, his home debut will be Sunday night against the Boston Celtics.

Detroit played Monday night at Charlotte, where the Bobcats are led by Larry Brown. The Hall of Fame coach helped Billups and the Pistons to the 2004 NBA title and guided the Iverson-led Philadelphia 76ers to a spot in the finals in 2001.

AP

Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson looks to shoot against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Denver, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008.

"Trading Marilyn Monroe for Jane Russell. That's not bad," Brown said. "Joe knows what he's doing, and I'm happy Chauncey's going back to Denver and his family is there."

Iverson talked about the possibility of being traded during training camp and said the only negative would be uprooting his family again.

"But it doesn't bother me because basketball is basketball," Iverson said during camp. "It won't change my game because I only know one way to play and that's like every game is my last."

Iverson's agent, Leon Rose, told the AP he is not negotiating a contract extension with the Pistons for his client, who said during training camp he was looking forward to being a free agent for the first time in his career.

The addition of Billups might placate Nuggets fans who have watched the once free-spending franchise trade defensive standout Marcus Camby to the Los Angeles Clippers in the offseason and recently decline to extend Linas Kleiza's contract.

Billups is a Denver native, former Colorado star and former Nugget.

"We fortunately fall into a guy that's an All-Star caliber point guard," Denver coach George Karl said, after saying he was sad to see Iverson go. "The connection with Denver and Colorado is fun to be a part of and enthusiastic to our owners."

McDyess also will be enjoying a homecoming of sorts, landing on the Nuggets' roster for the third time.

The Pistons kept McDyess off the free-agent market last summer by giving him a $13.5 million, two-year extension, and they would love to have him back if the cost-cutting Nuggets buy out his contract.

"I'll be talking with Antonio and his representative directly," Nuggets executive Mark Warkentien said. "But we think he's a heck of a player and know he's a quality guy. One step at a time."

Detroit, which tried to deal for the 33-year-old Iverson at least once before, added the superstar it lacked and salary-cap space for next summer by shedding Billups' contract.

"In this league, six or seven years is an eternity to have a core together," Dumars said. "So when a situation like this presents itself where you can cover yourself on both sides—the immediate impact player and the long-term flexibility, you have to push the button."

Billups is in the second season of a four-year contract worth a guaranteed $46 million with a $14 million team option for a fifth year.

"My family and I are excited to be going back home," Billups said. "As a kid growing up in Denver, I always dreamed of winning a championship with the Nuggets. Hopefully we can make that dream a reality. I'll miss my teammates, the fans and everyone in the Pistons organization who I grew close to over the last six years. We had a great run."

Iverson will take a spectacular resume into free agency in the summer.

The 20th-leading scorer in NBA history was the league MVP in 2001—four years after being the Rookie of the Year—and is a nine-time All-Star.

Philadelphia drafted him No. 1 overall in 1996 out of Georgetown and he spent 11 1/2 seasons with the franchise. He was traded Dec. 19, 2006, to the Nuggets and helped them reach the playoffs twice.

"I want to thank A.I. Allen Iverson was a joy to coach," Karl said. "When we acquired him, there were all these nightmares and stories about how difficult he was, and he never was difficult for me."

Billups bounced around the league after Boston drafted him No. 3 overall in 1997. The 32-year-old found a home in Detroit and blossomed into a three-time All-Star, and two-time All-Defensive player. He was on rosters in Boston, Denver, Orlando and Minnesota in his first four seasons before leading the Pistons along with Richard Hamilton, Tayshaun Prince and Rasheed Wallace.

"Every time I look out and don't see Ben (Wallace) there I get a strange feeling," Brown said. "Now not to see Chauncey and Dice, it's going to be different.

"But Allen is really special. If they want excitement in that building they're going to get it because every time he steps on the court he's going to try to win the game. And I don't think you would ever consider giving up Chauncey and Dice unless you were getting something you thought was pretty special."

Billups struggled in each of the past three conference finals as the Pistons were eliminated in Game 6 each year. He has averaged nearly 15 points and 5 1/2 assists for his career.

McDyess revived his career with the Pistons, playing 321 games over four seasons after serious knee operations. The former Olympian and All-Star has averaged 13.4 points and 7.7 rebounds for his career. Like Billups, the 34-year-old McDyess is one of the league's most popular players among peers.

Detroit acquired the 7-foot-1 Samb for Maurice Evans from the Lakers during the 2006 draft. The 24-year-old center played in just four NBA games last season, spending much of his year in the NBA Development League, where he led the league with four blocks a game.

"Two teams had one common problem, or challenge," Warkentien said. "I think the Pistons looked at (Rodney) Stuckey and saw him as the point guard of tomorrow, and you have an All-Star in Chauncey who was in his way.

"We're just thrilled with the way J.R. (Smith) is progressing and he had a Hall of Famer in front of him. You understand the motivation of both teams."

Hamilton, Pistons rout Bobcats 101-83 in final game ahead of AI arrival

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Richard Hamilton scored 19 points and the Detroit Pistons concluded a wild day by beating the Charlotte Bobcats 101-83 Monday, ensuring Allen Iverson will join an unbeaten team.

Playing short-handed hours after acquiring Iverson in a blockbuster deal with Denver, the balanced Pistons toyed with former coach Larry Brown's new team, improving to 3-0 and perhaps showing Iverson that he'll have plenty of scoring options when he takes over at point guard.

76ers 125, Kings 91

At Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young scored 18 points, Lou Williams had 17 and Philadelphia routed winless Sacramento.

Willie Green scored 16 points and Elton Brand had 15 for the Sixers, who were up 20 points at halftime and were able to stretch the lead in the second half instead of blowing it like they did Saturday at Atlanta.

Magic 96, Bulls 93

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and Orlando held off Chicago after Andres Nocioni's missed 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Rashard Lewis finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds as the Magic wiped out an early nine-point Bulls lead and led by as many as 17.

Grizzlies 90, Warriors 79

At Memphis, Tennessee, Marc Gasol had 27 points and 16 rebounds to help Memphis beat Golden State.

Gasol went 9-for-11 from the field and the free throw line for Memphis, which ended a seven-game skid in the series against Golden State. The rookie also blocked three shots.

Cavaliers 100, Mavericks 81

At Dallas, LeBron James snapped a third-quarter tie with a flying rebound-layup, then Mo Williams broke things open early in the fourth, sending Cleveland over Dallas.

James was only 8-of-20, but scored 29 points and took over when his team needed it. Cleveland let a 16-point lead fritter into a tie at 63, then Daniel Gibson missed a jumper from the corner, only to see James zoom in, grab the rebound and bank it in, all in one motion. He followed with a three-point play and a pair of free throws.

Jazz 89, Clippers 73

At Los Angeles, Paul Millsap scored 15 of his 24 points during a decisive 17-3 run in the fourth quarter, and unbeaten Utah beat winless Los Angeles.

Mehmet Okur scored 16 points, Andrei Kirilenko had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Carlos Boozer added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Jazz (3-0). Millsap also had nine rebounds, leading the Jazz to a 44-38 advantage in that department.

Ben out, but Steelers' D, Leftwich rip 'Skins

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Byron Leftwich led two touchdown drives after Ben Roethlisberger reinjured his throwing shoulder and the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Washington Redskins 23-6 on Monday night.

The Steelers' top-rated defense had seven sacks, allowed only 221 yards and became the first team this season to intercept Jason Campbell.

Leftwich went 7-of-10 for 129 yards and a touchdown as the Steelers (6-2) beat an NFC East team for the first time in three attempts this season.

Roethlisberger was 5-of-17 for 50 yards and an interception before leaving the game at halftime, again hindered by the slightly separated shoulder that has bothered him since the second week of the season.

Roethlisberger said he hurt the shoulder on the 1-yard sneak that gave the Steelers a 10-6 lead near the end of the first half.

"I have no update on Ben at this point," coach Mike Tomlin said. "Potentially, he was capable of going back in the game, but we went down the field with Leftwich in there to start the second half. We'll just see how he is."

Roethlisberger spoke briefly in the locker room. Asked if the injury was serious, he said: "I hope not. We'll find out."

Leftwich's 50-yard completion to Nate Washington set up a 1-yard TD run by Willie Parker, who was back from a four-week layoff with a knee injury. He also had a 5-yard scoring pass to Santonio Holmes, who returned from a one-game benching over a charge for a marijuana-related offense. Roethlisberger celebrated that touchdown on the sideline by high-fiving his teammates—with his left hand.

The Steelers held Clinton Portis to 51 yards rushing, ending his streak of five straight games with at least 120 yards. Washington (6-3) came close to scoring a touchdown only once - when Campbell threw incomplete to eligible lineman Lorenzo Alexander on fourth-and-goal at the 1 in the fourth quarter. Campbell, who finished 24-of-43 for 206 yards, thought he had scored on a scramble on the previous play, but a replay challenge showed he was down just before the goal line.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Farrior, right, safety Tyrone Carter, center, and linebacker LaMarr Woodley (56) celebrate during the fourth quarter of their NFL football game on Monday, Nov. 3, 2008 in Landover, Md.

While the Steelers remain atop the AFC North, the Redskins lost ground in the NFC East to the New York Giants. Washington enters its bye week needing to tweak an offense that has put together promising drives all season but has often struggled to find the end zone.

The game was the first hosted by Washington on the eve of a presidential election since 1984, and there was no mistaking the combination of football and election fever. One fan alternately waved a white towel with Barack Obama's image in the left hand and an all-burgundy Redskins towel in the right hand. Sports-themed interviews with Obama and John McCain were broadcast by ESPN during halftime.

The Redskins also used the special occasion to wear burgundy jerseys and pants together for the first time in franchise history. A more noticeable color, however, was the yellow from the sea of Terrible Towels waved by Steelers fans who managed to secure tickets by the boatload for the lower bowl of the stadium. In a bizarre sight, visiting Pittsburgh players were waving to the fans all around them to make noise crowd during defensive stands.

Neither team managed 100 yards in a first half that included seven sacks and a combined 13-of-32 performance by Roethlisberger and Campbell. The Redskins didn't convert on third down until Campbell hit tight end Chris Cooley for a 12-yard gain late in the third quarter.

Campbell's streak without an interception reached 271 attempts—249 this season—before cornerback Deshea Townsend grabbed a pass tipped by Portis late in the third quarter.

Washington was on the board early with two field goals in the first four minutes—without the benefit of a first down. Linebacker Alfred Fincher alertly recovered the Steelers surprise onside kick that opened the game, and Cornelius Griffin intercepted a pass tipped by teammate Andre Carter. Both plays gave Washington the ball in Pittsburgh territory, leading to field goals of 44 and 43 yards by Shaun Suisham.

The Steelers didn't cross midfield until Carlos Rogers grabbed Hines Ward to commit an obvious 43-yard pass interference penalty, setting up a 35-yard field goal by Jeff Reed that cut Washington's lead to 6-3.

The Steelers went ahead after Andre Frazier blocked Ryan Plackemeier's punt. William Gay recovered, giving Pittsburgh the ball at Washington's 13 and setting up Roethlisberger's 1-yard TD.

Browns bench QB Anderson, switch to Brady Quinn

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Here's a switch: The Cleveland Browns dropped Derek Anderson. The inconsistent Pro Bowl quarterback, whose production this season has been slowed by dropped passes, was benched on Monday by the Browns, who will start popular backup Brady Quinn on Thursday night against the Denver Broncos in hopes of turning around a disappointing season.

The surprising and unexpected swap was announced Monday by the team, just hours after coach Romeo Crennel said he had no plans to make a change.

On Sunday, Anderson threw a costly interception that was returned for a touchdown in the final minutes of a 37-27 loss to the Baltimore Ravens. The pick prompted Browns fans to begin chants of "Brady! Brady!" for Quinn, the former Notre Dame star who has thrown just eight passes in two seasons.

Those fans are getting their wish.

A team spokesman said Crennel and Quinn would not be available for comment until Tuesday.

Earlier, Quinn was asked for his reaction to hearing fans scream his name.

"We lost the game, really that's all that matters," he said. "That's something in the NFL, everyone always loves the backup. That's just how it is."

Browns center Hank Fraley found out about Anderson's demotion when he got a text message during the afternoon from the QB.

"I was surprised," Fraley said. "I've become real good friends with Derek and I feel for him. I told him to stay positive. He will. He's a team player."

Anderson had gone 132 pass attempts without an interception before he was picked off by Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs, who stepped in front of a screen pass and ran it back 42 yards for a TD. Anderson finished 17-of-33 for 219 yards and two TDs, but the 25-year-old's stats would have been even better if wide receiver Braylon Edwards hadn't let a certain TD pass in the fourth quarter slip through his hands with the game tied.

Edwards leads the NFL with 13 drops, and Anderson has had to throw to wide receivers Syndric Steptoe and Steve Sanders, two former backups who have played only because of injuries to Donte' Stallworth and Joe Jurevicius.

Fraley was asked if Anderson was the fall guy for the Browns, who were expected to contend for a playoff spot coming off a 10-6 season in 2007.

"That was the coaches' decision," he said. "Maybe they feel like he (Quinn) will bring a spark. It's tough because Derek is a great guy, a team leader and a captain. We just haven't been playing well around him. It's a shock to everybody on this team. It's their decision and we're going to have to live with it."

Anderson led the Browns to 10 wins last season, and after an 0-3 start, he had guided the Browns (3-5) to three victories in their past four games before Sunday's loss—Cleveland's second to Baltimore this season.

Crennel had hinted about a change at quarterback following a Sept. 21 loss at Baltimore. But he stuck with the strong-armed Anderson, a former backup who threw 29 TD passes last season and made the Pro Bowl.

During his news conference Monday, Crennel was asked if he was considering a change at quarterback.

"No, I haven't really," he said. "I haven't had a chance to talk to the coaches or anything. With a short week, I told them to go ahead and get started on Denver. They haven't even looked at this game yet."

Crennel was then asked if Anderson was still his starter.

"Yes," he said, "as of right now."

With their playoff hopes in serious jeopardy, the Browns feel it's time to see what they have in Quinn, who didn't play as a rookie until the final game of 2007, when he came in for one series and led the Browns to a field goal. Quinn was 3-of-8 for 45 yards and had a TD pass dropped by tight end Kellen Winslow.

On the first day of the 2007 draft, the Browns traded a first-round pick in 2008 to Dallas and selected Quinn with the No. 22 overall selection. Quinn had been expected to go much higher, but the four-year starter for the Fighting Irish sat in the wings at Radio City Music Hall in New York waiting for his name to be called.

In two starts during the exhibition season, Quinn completed 21 of 33 passes for 171 yards.

Fraley is confident Quinn will be ready to step into the spotlight.

"He's young, so you don't know what to expect but he has worked hard and he'll be ready," Fraley said. "Derek and the other quarterbacks are always together, 24-7. Brady is always prepared because as a backup you are always one play away. He's been doing it the whole season.

"I know Brady has been waiting for his turn and I'm not sure this is the way he envisioned getting it. We're going to play hard for whoever is back there, and now it's Brady."

NFL BRIEFS

Culpepper plans to sign 2-year contract with Lions

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Lions are turning to a former Pro Bowl quarterback for help in trying to win their first game of the season. Daunte Culpepper has agreed to a two-year deal with the Lions and said Monday he would sign it after taking a physical. "As a result of doing some research on different places to play, the Detroit Lions seemed to be the best fit for me," Culpepper told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "I am encouraged by the commitment of ownership, the vision of management and the great potential of the talent that is on the team." "I hope to contribute to the team in whatever role coach (Rod) Marinelli needs for me to play," he wrote. Culpepper, 31, was a first-round draft choice of Minnesota in 1999 and made three Pro Bowls as a member of the Vikings, where he teamed with Randy Moss to form one of the league's most dynamic quarterback-receiver combinations.

Bears await word on quarterback Orton's ankle

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—One day after leaving the field on a cart, Chicago Bears quarterback Kyle Orton was undergoing more tests on his right ankle to determine the extent of his injury. Orton was injured in the final minute of the first half in Sunday's 27-23 victory over the Detroit Lions, forcing the Bears to turn to former starter Rex Grossman. And Chicago might be without Orton for the next few weeks. "I'm not playing doctor; you shouldn't either," coach Lovie Smith said Monday. "You should let us come and tell you once we know for sure exactly what the injury is. We're hopeful, I'll just say that." Orton was examined after the game and underwent tests Monday morning, Smith said. More were scheduled for later in the day, but the odds of him being ready for next week's game against Tennessee certainly did not look good after he went down against the Lions. Asked if the injury was more than just a sprain, Smith said: "It's an ankle injury. That's about all I'm going to tell you right now. Wednesday, I'll tell you more."

MISO to hold first jr. varsity caging for girls

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will be holding the inaugural junior varsity basketball league for girls next week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MISO coordinator Joel Punzalan of Saipan Southern High School said they will initially have three teams in the first ever girls junior varsity caging. The list includes the Lady Manta Rays, the MHS Dolphins, and the Kagman Lady Ayuyus.

"We only have the three high schools for now, but next season, we hope to make it bigger by encouraging private schools to field their junior varsity teams in the girls league," Punzalan said.

In the past MISO caging, players in the junior high and high school are put in one team and compete in the girls division.

Punzalan said that they decided to have a separate league for high school and junior high school teams to have balanced competition and train new female players.

The MISO coordinator added they set the junior varsity competition apart from the varsity division to avoid conflicts in schedule and give each division equal treatment.

Last season, MISO held two games per playing day with the junior varsity teams playing first, followed by the varsity match. Spectators usually watched the last game.

Meanwhile, action in the boys junior varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League resumes tonight with one team guaranteed to break into the win column.

Mt. Carmel School and Kagman High School, which both dropped their first two games of the season, will duel at 4:30pm.

The Ayuyus debuted with a 58-62 loss against the MHS Dolphins and had a 0-2 start in the league after bowing to the Rays in similar scores.

The MCS Knights also lost their first game against the Rays, 63-48, and suffered another beating at the hands of MHS, 44-77, Friday night.

The battle of undefeated teams is set for tomorrow with the Dolphins colliding with the Rays at 4:30pm.

The Dolphins-Rays tiff was originally set for Friday, but was moved early as the MHS Gymnasium will be hosting an event Friday night.

The Rays are this year's defending champion having beaten the Ayuyus in last season's finals. The Dolphins won over the Knights in last season's battle for third place.

ROLLERS

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the semis match

Deleon Guerrero received the ball from the referee, did not dribble, bent his knees, looked at his target, took two long breaths, and released the ball, which hit nothing but the bottom of the net.

He had the same routine for the second charity and swooshed it giving the Rollers I a two-point lead, 73-71, with 9.8 seconds left in the game

The Sixers, which had no more timeouts, were forced to rush things with Joe Ada driving to the right baseline, going for an acrobatic shot, as he was met by two Rollers I defenders, and missing the game-tying basket.

There was a battle for the loose ball and neither team got clear possession as time expired completing the Rollers I's upset win over the second-seeded Sixers.

The Rollers I lost to the Sixers in the regular season and in the battle for third place last year. The Rollers I were seeded only third in the playoffs behind the Junior Nationals and the Sixers.

Teregeyo paced the Rollers I with his 19 points, while Manny Matagolau chipped in 16. Jomar Danas and Edwin Camacho contributed 10 apiece.

Ada led the Sixers' losing cause, hitting two markers.

The Junior Nationals-Rollers I title showdown will be played tomorrow 7pm, while the Sixers will duel the G-Stars for the third place trophy at 5:30pm.

Jericho Cruz anchored the Junior Nationals 11-point semis win over the G-Stars as the 2008 Oceania Youth Tournament scoring champion exploded for 30 points.

The G-Stars kept pace with the Junior Nationals only in the first half, trailing by only one at halftime, 27-28.

But when Cruz and fellow OYT veteran Marvin Rabauliman took charge, the G-Stars started to lose their chances for an upset.

Rabauliman finished with 18 markers.

No G-Stars player made it into double figures, as their highest-scorer—Dan Mateo—had only eight points.

First Game

Junior Nationals 64 – Cruz 30, Rabauliman 18, Moses 7, White 4, Williams 4.

G-Stars 53 – D. Mateo 8, N. Mateo 7, Palacios 7, L. Rangamar 6, Jung 5, Kenty 5, S. Rangamar 5, Iguel 4, Sablan 4.

Scoring by halves: 28-27, 64-53.

Second Game

Rollers I 73 – Teregeyo 19, Matagolai 16, Danas 10, E. Camacho 10, Concepcion 7, Ogarto 3, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Sixers 71 – Ada 22, E. Duenas 16, M. Duenas 12, Flores 8, Agtarap 2, Benavente 2, Pepito 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-37, 73-71.

MIEKO

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age group with times of 3:44:43 and 3:45:09, respectively.

Understandably, Carey was overjoyed about her performance in the 2008 XTERRA World Championships.

"I came in third in my age group and I stood up on stage during the awards banquet! It was hardest race I've ever taken part in. At first I was disappointed about my time when I finished, because I got sick on the bike and my overall time was slower then last year. I couldn't do all the effort I wanted. But when I found out I was third in my group and a lot of people acknowledged my effort I was nervous but super happy about my result," Carey said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Carey did slightly better in the 2007 edition of the grueling triathlon, coming in some nine minutes faster than this year's time after clocking in 3:44.41. That was enough for her to grab the 198th spot out of the 550 participants last year.

Aside from Carey, two other Saipan triathletes took part in the World Championships—Carey's husband Kevin and Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist Eli Torgeson.

Torgeson finished 167th out of 482 finishers with a time of 3:36:03—25:29 in the swim, 2:08:56 in the bike, and 1:01:08 in the run. He came in 21st in the men's 35-39 age group.

Kevin, for his part, was 39th in the same age group after coming in 330th out of 482 finishers with a time of 4:17:06—27:56 in the swim, 2:29:39 in the bike, and 1:19:31 in the run.

Ever the cheerleader, Mieko was stoked after all three triathletes Saipan sent to the World Championships completed the race.

"Eli did great job and Kevin too. Team Saipan did great job," she said.

Spain's Ruben Ruzafa (2:37:36) and England's Julie Dibens (3:03:57) topped the 2008 XTERRA World Championships. The former was the Tagaman Triathlon champion in 2007.

Swiss star Renata Bucher, the 2008 XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman champion, was fifth in the women's division, while compatriot Oliver Marceau, 2007 XTERRA Saipan Championship men's winner, came fifth in the men's division.

Saipan men's champion Andrew Noble of Australia, meanwhile, did not take part in the World Championships this year as he stayed home with his wife who is expecting a child.

Wolf Mojica and Bill Sakovich of Taga, Inc., the organizers of the XTERRA Saipan Championship, represented Saipan as international organizers.

CNMI

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presided by EAFF president Xie Yalong. At the meeting, members of EAFF adopted and unanimously granted a motion to formally include CNMI through NMIFA in the federation.

NMIFA is the 10th member of EAFF joining the Chinese Football Association, Chinese-Taipei Football Association, Guam Football Association, Hong Kong Football Association, Japan Football Association, Korea Football Association, Macao Football Association, and Mongolia Football Federation.

Tan said competing in off-island tournaments are one of the many benefits that NMIFA will be enjoying as a full member of EAFF.

"2009 is going to be a very busy year for NMIFA and will provide great opportunities for our players to compete internationally," Tan said.

First on the list is the EAFF Men's Preliminary Round to be held in Guam in March. The host and the CNMI will be competing against Mongolia and Macau.

Winner of the qualifier will advance to the semifinals against Hong Kong, South Korea, and Chinese-Taipei in August with the host county to be announced later.

The second competition will be the EAAF Women's Championship in Taiwan in August. The CNMI female strikers will be battling teams from Guam, Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, and South Korea.

NMIFA will also be sending a team to a men's futsal competition in November. The host country for the men's futsal event has yet to be determined.

"On top of these three international competitions, sometime in March or April, we will be competing against the Guam National Team for the 3rd Annual Marianas Cup which will be held in Guam. This is for both the men's and women's divisions," Tan said.

The CNMI hosted the inaugural Marianas Cup, while Guam was the venue of the second edition of the annual event. Guam swept the first two Marianas Cup.

Besides getting tickets to international tournaments, NMIFA is also entitled to coaching clinics, referee development clinics, equipment, and organizational development funding from EAFF.

FINANCE

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in the next four innings to break the game wide open.

Rightfielder Kai Dela Cruz scored the other run for CUC at the bottom of the sixth.

Both teams played their first game in the women's division with Finance joining opening-day winner Northern Marianas College in the win column. NMC pulled off a 17-6 upset over defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

In the men's division, the Beach Boys and Law & Order also won their debuts.

The Beach Boys whipped the Commonwealth Health Center, 15-3.

A seven-run top of the sixth keyed the Beach Boys triumph.

After five completing innings, the Beach Boys were up by only one run, 4-3.

But successive runs from their first four batters and a two-run triple from centerfielder Harlam Reyes helped the Beach Boys widen the gap, 11-3, going into the seventh inning.

The Beach Boys closed out with a four-run top of the seventh to put more pressure to CHC, who must score at least 12 runs to send the game in extra inning.

But CHC had a shut out in the last inning to drop its first game of the season. CHC scored only at the bottom of the fifth on two unearned runs. Fernando Camacho scored the other run for CHC off a Ben Higgins single.

Catcher Stanley Aldan led Beach Boys' victory, going 3-for-4 at the plate. He had three runs, one double, one triple and two RBIs. Steve Igisair and B.J. Sablan both went only 2-for-4, but had three RBIs apiece.

In the other game in the men's division, Law & Order neutralized Hopwood, 18-10.

Back-to-back homers from shortstop Ben Lisua and catcher Jonas Barcinas brought Law & Order back to life after Hopwood threatened at the bottom of the sixth inning.

Law & Order was comfortably ahead, 15-2, after five-and-a-half innings when Hopwood rallied through an eight-run bottom of the sixth, moving within five, 10-15.

At the top of the seventh with two outs and Manny Tenorio on second base, Lisua blasted an over-the-fence homer. Barcinas followed it up with a solo homer to increase Law & Order's lead to eight runs, 18-10, entering the bottom of the last.

The score remained unchanged, as Law & Order's outfielders hustled for the ball, flying out Hopwood's first three batters.

Barcinas, Sylvio Ada, and Derek Sasamoto had similar performance at-bat, going 3-for-4. Ada had a double and two RBIs and scored two runs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	3	0	1.000	_
Boston	2	1	.667	1
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	1 1/2
New Jersey	1	1	.500	1 1/2
New York	1	2	.333	2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	2	0	1.000	_
Orlando	2	2	.500	1
Charlotte	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Miami	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Washington	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

Detroit	3	0	1.000	_
Chicago	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Indiana	1	1	.500	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	3	0	1.000	_
New Orleans	3	0	1.000	_
Memphis	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Dallas	1	2	.333	2
San Antonio	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	3	0	1.000	_
Denver	1	2	.333	2
Minnesota	1	2	.333	2
Oklahoma City	1	2	.333	2
Portland	1	2	.333	2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	3	0	1.000	_
Phoenix	2	1	.667	1
Golden State	1	3	.250	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	4	.000	3 1/2
Sacramento	0	4	.000	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Orlando 96, Chicago 93
Philadelphia 125, Sacramento 91
Detroit 101, Charlotte 83
Memphis 90, Golden State 79
Cleveland 100, Dallas 81
Utah 89, L.A. Clippers 73

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	3	0	.625	168	150
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	208	187
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	182	169
Miami	4	4	0	.500	171	163

South

Tennessee	8	0	0	1.000	199	103
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	167	177
Jacksonville	3	5	0	.375	160	172
Houston	3	5	0	.375	196	213

North

Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	178	116
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	171	137
Cleveland	3	5	0	.375	142	160
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	125	236

West

Denver	4	4	0	.500	190	221
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	224	199
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	107	201
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125	126	223

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	7	1	0	.875	226	129
Washington	6	3	0	.667	171	168
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	220	144
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	216	219

South

Carolina	6	2	0	.750	174	127
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	200	147
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	177	154
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	216	195

North

Chicago	5	3	0	.625	223	173
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	210	178
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	182	188
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	137	239

West

Arizona	5	3	0	.625	234	184
Seattle	2	6	0	.250	151	210
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	171	230
St. Louis	2	6	0	.250	125	235

Yesterday's Game
Pittsburgh 23, Washington 6

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Budweiser Softball Standings

Men's Division

DCCA	1	0
Freedom Air	1	0
DLNR	1	0
Legislature	1	0
Joeten Motors	1	0
P & S	1	0
CPA	1	0
Saipan Cell	1	0
Beach Boys	1	0
Law & Order	1	0
PIC	0	1
DEQ/CRM	0	1
CUC	0	1
Customs	0	1
No Zone	0	1
Mayors	0	1
POI	0	1
PSS	0	1
Hopwood	0	1
CHC	0	1

Women's Division

NMC	1	0
Finance	1	0
DCCA	0	1
CUC	0	1
CHC	0	0

Coalition of Private School Junior Varsity Volleyball League

Photos by NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The GCA Eagles are all smiles despite placing second to Whispering Palms.

Whispering Palms and Grace Christian Academy players exchange high fives after their title game in the junior varsity division of the Coalition of Private School Junior Varsity Volleyball League.

Newly-crowned junior varsity champion Whispering Palms with coach Mark McDonald, standing right.

Members of Calvary Christian Academy pose with their third place trophy. Joining them is CCA principal Scott Norman.

MVP Kim Min Sung, left, of runner-up Grace Christian Academy is flanked by members of the All Conference Junior Varsity Team—Jake Lee of Whispering Palms, Angelo Jones of Saipan International School-Green, Emily Hsieh of SIS-B, Jacinia Richards of Seventh Day Adventists, A.J. Batallones of GCA, and Ji Hoon Choi of Calvary Christian Academy. Not in photo are Christian Mizer of Mt. Carmel School and Frankie Camacho of Saipan Community School.

Players, parents, and teachers wait for the award ceremony.

Calvary coach Asia Michaleun gives instructions to the Sharks.

SIS-Green players huddle during their playoff game against CCA.

Calvary Christian Academy players watch the finals match between Whispering Palms and GCA.

MISO to hold first jr. varsity caging for girls

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will be holding the inaugural junior varsity basketball league for girls next week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nuggets, Pistons swap Iverson for Billups

The Detroit Pistons worked the phones last summer, trying to trade for a superstar to shake up their roster. They ended up standing pat because a deal didn't make sense.

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Rollers I vs Jr. Nationals in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rainier Deleon Guerrero never made a single basket against the San Antonio Sixers, but when he did in the last 9.8 seconds of the game, they were big—big enough to put the Rollers I to the finals of the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

Deleon Guerrero calmly sank two pressure-packed free throws in the closing seconds of their semifinals game against the Sixers to lift the Rollers I to a 73-71 victory Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory brought the Rollers I to the finals again after failing to advance in the title match last season, as it was beaten by the CNMI Junior Nationals in the semifinals. The Rollers I won the Rotary title in 2006 and incidentally it will try to regain its lost crown against the Junior Nationals, who claimed the finals berth after a 64-53 triumph over the G-Stars in the other semis game Monday night.

The Rollers I's Don Teregeyo, center, challenges the defense of the Sixers' Nate Flores during their semifinals game in the Rotary caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Rollers I-Sixers tiff was tied last at the 71-71 tally after Don Teregeyo canned two charities, with 21. 2 seconds remaining on the clock.

Sixers coach Ray Duenas called his last timeout to map out an offensive play. The Sixers inbounded the ball from the left baseline and had three players getting touches on the possession with Matt Duenas the last.

Duenas failed to look at the clock, which still read 11 seconds, hurriedly drove to the middle, pulled up for a shot against two Rollers I defenders, and missed.

Deleon Guerrero controlled the rebound and dribbled out of Sixers defenders. The Rollers I center was able to elude two Sixers players and was dribbling near the Sixers bench when he was bumped by Aaron Agtarap.

Agtarap was charged with a foul, the Sixers ninth putting them in the penalty mark and sending Deleon Guerrero to the 15-foot line.

Deleon Guerrero was scoreless prior to his trip to the free throw line, as he hardly attempted to score against the Sixers and reported back into the game only in the closing minutes of

See ROLLERS on Page 26

Mieko Carey of Saipan in action during the 2008 XTERRA World Championships held last Oct. 26 in Makena, Maui.

NILS NILSEN/XTERRA ©

Mieko finishes 3rd in age group

Eli, Kevin also complete World Championships

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

First of a three-part series

Mieko Carey completed the XTERRA World Championships slower than her time last year, but that didn't prevent the longtime Saipan resident to finish in the Top 3 of her age group last Oct. 26 in Maui.

Carey finished 235th out of 482 finishers and was third in the women's 30-34 age group with a time of 3:53:38

She negotiated the 0.9-mile swim in 22:02, tackled the 19.1-mile bike course in 2:24:28, before conquering the 6.9-mile run in 1:07:08.

Incidentally, Dominique Angerer of Austria and Connie Silvestri of Britain topped Carey's

See MIEKO on Page 26

CNMI strikers joining three international tourneys in 2009

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be getting slots to three international tournaments next year after its application for full membership in the East Asian Football Federation was granted during the EAFF Congress in Tokyo, Japan last September.

"As a full member of the EAFF, we have been invited to compete in three different EAAF-sanctioned competitions in 2009," said Jerry Tan, president of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation.

Tan, along with NMIFA vice president Sue Knecht, attended the EAAF Congress, which was

See CNMI on Page 26

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The CNMI Men's Nationals' Nick Swaim, left, loses his balance as he tries to steal the ball away from a Guam striker during their game in the 2007 EAFF Men's Preliminary Round at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Next year, the CNMI strikers will be competing in three EAFF-sanctioned tournaments.

Finance overpowers CUC; Beach Boys, Law & Order top opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finance cashed in on Lenise Kapileo's and Bego Camacho's perfect hitting and Pauline Tudela's three-run homer to take an easy 15-5 victory over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Softball League Friday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kapileo went 4-for-4 at the plate and scored three runs. Camacho also hit 4-for-4, making two runs and one RBI.

Tudela was only 2-for-4, but blasted the lone homer in the game, driving three runners home. Tudela scored two runs.

CUC was very much in the game after one complete inning as it drew one run apiece from Pagelyn Falig, Christina Phillip, Tricia Falig, and Jenny Palacios.

Finance was leading by only two runs, 6-4, after one complete inning, but it shut out CUC

See FINANCE on Page 26